Wanted man caught, admits selling $40K worth of 'ice' PAGE 2
Kensington expects favorable resolution of lawsuit. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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Saipan mayor's wife passes away

By MICHAEL T SANTOS
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REPORTER

The islands were shaken yesterday with the sad news about the passing of Tonie Apatang, the wife of Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, who died in Hawaii during medical referral.

Henry Hofschneider, special assistant to the mayor of Saipan, confirmed yesterday that Tonie Apatang had passed on.

"We're sad to hear news of her passing. We are always here to support our mayor in anyway we can and

See MAYOR on Page 4

ANNUAL CEREMONY
MICHAEL T. SANTOS
Participants light their candles to commemorate loved ones who have passed on during The Compassionate Friends of Saipan's annual candle lighting ceremony at the Garapan Central Park on Dec. 11.

GOP Senate can act on Kilili's bill

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) said a Republican-controlled U.S. Senate could still act on a bill introduced by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) once the inaugural session of the 115th Congress opens on Jan. 3.

The GOP retained its hold on the Senate majority with 52 members against the 46 by the Democrats; two won as independents.

Sablan authored House Resolution 6401, which aims to increase the CNMI-Only Transition Worker Nonimmigrant Visa program's numerical limit. It passed the U.S. House of

See GOP on Page 4

M/V *Luta* custodian seeks $82K payment

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» National Maritime Services wants to withdraw as vessel custodian if it's not paid immediately

The custodian of cargo ship M/V *Luta* asked the federal court yesterday to require Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto to pay it a total of $82,463.33 for custodian services from October to December 2016.

National Maritime Services Inc., through counsel Sean E. Frink, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to require Yamamoto to immediately pay the company $33,980.28 covering the period

See CUSTODIAN on Page 4

RNV sues Imperial Pacific to collect $1.7M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The owner of RNV Construction is suing Imperial Pacific International CNMI LLC for allegedly refusing to pay $1,672,078 for the construction of a casino training facility at the T Galleria in Garapan.

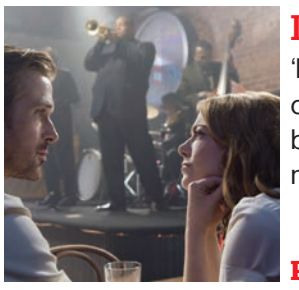
RJCL Corp., owner of RNV Construction, is suing Imperial Pacific for breach of contract, breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, unjust enrichment, and fraud.

See RNV on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION
President-elect Donald Trump has selected Rex Tillerson to lead the State Department.
PAGE 15

ASIA
China warns any moves to damage Beijing's core interests would be self-detrimental.
PAGE 16



LIFE & STYLE
'La La Land' waltzes off with the most number of Golden Globe nominations.
PAGE 20

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Local

Wanted man caught, admits selling $40K worth of 'ice'

Police arrested on Friday a 31-year-old man being hunted by authorities on charges of illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Police served the arrest warrant on Moses Sepedy Martin in Chalan Piao at 5:39pm. Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issued the arrest warrant.

At a hearing on Monday afternoon, Camacho kept the $50,000 cash bail he earlier imposed on Martin. Preliminary hearing will be on Dec. 19 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as counsel for Martin. Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub appeared for the government.

CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force officer Rudolph C. Sablan Jr. stated in his report that police officers responded last Sept. 13 at 5:13am to a reported disturbance at the Good Luck Poker in Chalan Laulau.

When the officers arrived at Good Luck Poker, a security guard directed them toward Martin, also known as Mooch.

When the officers approached, Martin ran off toward the residential area near McDonald's but he was soon caught in a dead end area.

Martin threw out items from a small bag. An officer collected from the ground the thrown items—a glass pipe containing a crystal-like substance, three small baggies containing a crystal-like substance, and two small baggies containing a green leafy substance.

Sablan said an officer tested the crystal-like substance, which was presumptive positive for methamphetamine.

Martin was then arrested for illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Martin allegedly confessed that he had $30 to $40 worth of "ice," saying his sources are three Chinese nationals.

Martin said he is not an "ice" user but began selling the drug a year and a half ago.

Sablan said Martin mentioned that he has already sold about $40,000 worth of "ice" to his customers since he started.

After the Sept. 13 arrest, Martin was subsequently released for further investigation.

Last Dec. 5, Camacho issued an arrest warrant for Martin for possession of a controlled substance arising from the Sept. 13 incident. Officers, however, could not find Martin, prompting the NMI Crime Stoppers Program to issue a press release last Thursday, asking assistance from the public for information on the suspect's whereabouts. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

TOYS FOR TOTS IPI-CSR PHOTO

The municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan received $1,000 worth of toys and sporting equipment yesterday for their 2016 Toys for Tots Program from Imperial Pacific International, Ltd. through chief services officer Tao Xing and Corporate Social Responsibility executive director Geri Dela Cruz and her team. In this photo, Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas, sixth from right, and Tinian Youth Athletes Club president Connie M. San Nicolas and her team received the donation at the CSR office yesterday afternoon.

MVA pushes sports tourism, starting with Ironman 70.3

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas Visitors Authority is promoting the CNMI through sports tourism, highlighting an international sporting event on Saipan that will take place in early 2017.

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion said he plans to promote the CNMI through sports, starting with Ironman 70.3, which would be held on Saipan on March 11, 2017.

"We want to promote this active lifestyle to promoters overseas such as the Philippines, Korea, Japan, and China as a fun, fit, active, and healthy destination," said Concepcion. "That's how we want to brand ourselves—as islands of sports and paradise here in the middle of the Pacific."

Concepcion said the CNMI is more than just beautiful sceneries. He thinks the unique terrain of Saipan would be perfect for hosting races and other sporting events that require challenging trails.

"You can go from sea level to a few hundred meters above sea level. You can go through jungles and through offroad paths. I believe it is unique to us—you don't find these kinds of trails in the other islands here in Micronesia or in the Marianas," said Concepcion.

He is particularly excited about Ironman 70.3, mainly because it will the first time that the world-renowned triathlon would be held in Micronesia.

Concepcion said the MVA, with the help of the Kiyokazu Fitness Club, was able to catch the attention of Ironman representatives.

"We had a lot of back and forth because a lot of representatives of Ironman were not familiar with Saipan and its potential to host that big of an event. It was a lot of [before] we finally got the green light," he said.

The main issue came down to the capability of the CNMI to accommodate tourists and athletes alike.

"The Japan MVA team is working directly with the airlines to have seat blocks on Delta and possibly charter whole flights to bring in participants," said Concepcion. "We are cautious because the hotel occupancy rate is really high, so we expect that these airlines, our hotel partners, and tour partners will work together so that when they bring in customers there are rooms for the customers."

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Kensington expects favorable resolution of lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Micronesia Resort Inc., the owner of Kensington Hotel Saipan, is confident that the lawsuit filed by a construction company against it will be resolved in its favor.

MRI, through counsel, said it will actively cooperate in every aspect of the proceeding.

Saipan Hwa Rang Corp., which does business as D. System Construction, is suing MRI for allegedly refusing to pay the full contract price for the renovation of Kensington's VIP lounge and compensation for construction and consultation services for other projects.

Saipan Hwa Rang Corp. is suing MRI for unjust enrichment and for breach of contract.

In MRI's answer to the lawsuit, MRI counsels Richard W. Pierce and Daniel T. Guidotti said D. System Construction engaged in behavior designed to defraud a third party in connection with the contract for renovation and construction of Cocomong Camp at Kensington Hotel.

Pierce and Guidotti said D. System's "unclean hands makes it ineligible for any equitable relief in this proceeding."

The lawyers said D. System lacks standing to bring court action in connection with the Cocomong Camp contract as it is not a party or a beneficiary of the contract.

Pierce and Guidotti said D. System Construction's claims in connection with any modifications to the other contract for renovation of a portion of the hotel property are unenforceable because they were not executed in writing signed by both parties.

Pierce and Guidotti said D. System failed to act in accordance with its duty to good faith and fair dealing by failing to respond to MRI's requests for information relating to payments for the renovation of hotel property contract and the Cocomong Camp contract.

The lawyers said D. System's claims in connection with any modifications to the renovation of hotel property contract are unenforceable due to their indefinite nature and that there was no agreement between MRI and D. System as to its essential terms.

In the alternative, the lawyers said MRI and D. System reached an accord and satisfaction with respect to the price of any change orders on the scope of work under the renovation of hotel property contract.

Pierce and Guidotti said D. System would be unjustly enriched if the company were to prevail on one or more of its alleged claims in this proceeding.

Pierce and Guidotti said D. System is barred from bringing court action against MRI in connection with the renovation of hotel property contract as D. System previously communicated to MRI that all such related disputes were deemed resolved.

The lawyers said MRI relied on D. System's statement.

Pierce and Guidotti said MRI admits that it has not paid D. System certain amounts that may be due under the renovation of hotel property contract as a result of a dispute on the actual amounts owed.

Pierce and Guidotti said MRI also admits that D. System performed certain work in the renovation of the hotel but it is denied that MRI refused to pay for work performed.

In its lawsuit, Saipan Hwa, through counsel Mark Scoggins, asked the Superior Court to hold MRI liable to pay the company an unspecified amount of damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

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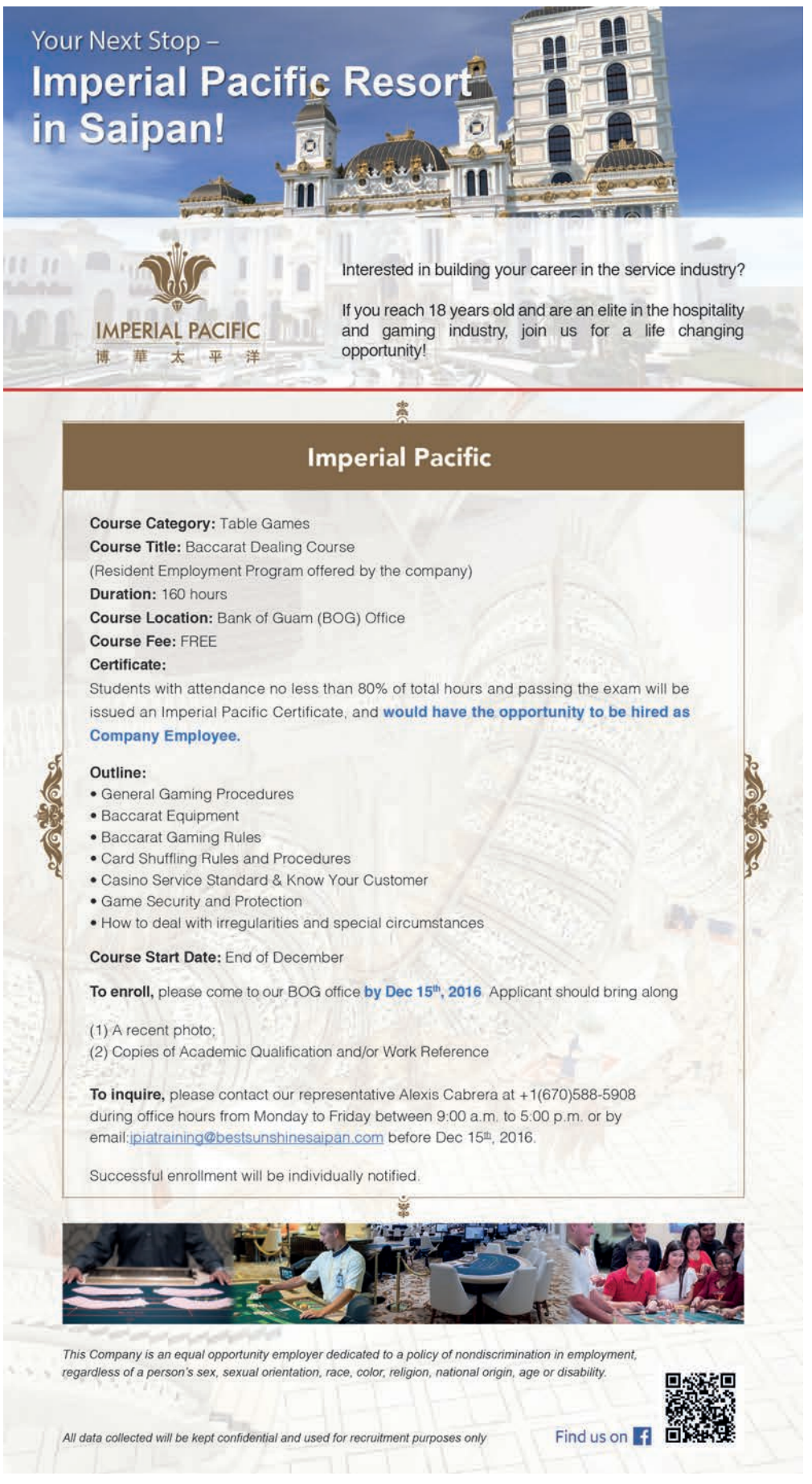
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Former lawmaker recounts CHC mishap

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Former representative Ana S. Teregeyo believes the passage of House Bill 19-186 is a necessary step toward improving services at the Commonwealth Health Center, citing her own experience at the CNMI's lone hospital as an example.

Teregeyo was happy to hear that HB 19-186 has passed the Legislature and now only waits for the signature of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to become law.

"I am happy that after so many meetings we had between CHCC CEO and the respective committees of both Houses to address important issues, an effort has been taken to effectuate critical sections of Public Law 16-51, which created CHC as a public corporation," said Teregeyo in an email.

Teregeyo thinks the lack of a regulatory board is why the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is faced with many medical malpractice lawsuits, including her own.

"I am a victim, like so the many CNMI residents who undergo treatments by medical professionals on island who were certified and licensed to provide quality medical care services to CNMI residents and visitors when they need medical attention at the lone public hospital and most specially under the supervision of the current CHCC chief executive officer, Ms. Esther L. Muña," said Teregeyo.

"I would not have felt the negligence of CHCC medical care if the CEO exercised due diligence in compliance of the PL-16-51 bylaws, allowing the orthopedic surgeon to remain during my postoperative care as a patient at CHCC," she added.

Teregeyo claims that Muña had numerous disagreements with the previous CHCC board.

"[Muña] refused to extend courtesies to the current [board] as she claimed they were not her supervisors. There were unnecessary confrontations between the board…and the CEO that I witnessed during one of the board's meetings," said Teregeyo.

Teregeyo had a fractured left tibia that was treated by CHC that she claims was below applicable standard of care, costing her six additional surgeries off-island.

Teregeyo is suing Muña and other medical staff officers and later went on to sue the CNMI government altogether for the incident. The lawsuit is still pending in Superior Court.

Muña has declined to comment on the matter.

RNV

From Page 1

RJCL Corp., through counsel Jennifer Dockter, asked the Superior Court to hold Imperial Pacific liable to pay an unspecified amount in damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

In an emailed statement, Imperial Pacific said it has retained a professional legal team to defend itself from the lawsuit.

"The company fully respects its local partners and the local laws. We will address RNV's claims in court and not in the media. We believe the court will render a fair judgment," the statement adds.

It said Imperial Pacific is committed to its investment. "Sustainable development and localization are very important for the rapid growth of the company and the CNMI. We continue to work with different business partners, the CNMI government and the community to develop the local economy, offer job opportunities and to promote Saipan as a premier international tourist destination."

Imperial Pacific, which operates the best Sunshine LIVE casino training facility inside the T Galleria, assured that the company's project in Garapan, called Imperial Pacific Resort, is not affected by the lawsuit and continues to progress according to schedule.

RNV and Imperial Pacific entered into a $3,230,000 contract on April 13, 2015, for the construction of a casino training facility at the Duty Free shopping mall.

Dockter said throughout construction and after RNV began work, Imperial Pacific demanded large changes to the project, resulting in increased costs and required RNV to perform additional work.

Dockter said that Imperial Pacific always demanded that its change orders be immediately implemented and often reported to RNV that time was of the essence.

The lawyer said RNV was working almost 24 hours a day to complete the changes and construction. The variation costs, she said, totaled $1,808,398.90.

Dockter said RNV completed the construction on the casino in June 2015.

Dockter said Imperial Pacific made incremental payments that were not according to the schedule agreement of the original contract.

Dockter said that in November 2015, Imperial Pacific and RNV conducted a "walk through" of the construction.

She said Imperial Pacific notified RNV of a "punch list" of items in the VIP portion of the building it wanted RNV to "fix," which RNV did, at no added cost to Imperial Pacific.

On May 25, 2016, RNV informed Imperial that Imperial Pacific's failure to pay RNV was hurting the company financially.

That same day, Dockter said, Imperial Pacific informed RNV that it would not pay the company until additional "fixes" were completed.

In reliance of the promise, Dockter said, RNV immediately completed the additional "fixes" at no additional cost to Imperial Pacific on June 9, 2016.

On June 22, 2016, Dockter said, Imperial Pacific certified RNV's work was complete and again promised to make payments.

Imperial Pacific allegedly continues to owe RNV approximately $161,500 under the original contract price and $1,510,578.70 for the variation costs.

Dockter said despite repeated promises, Imperial Pacific has failed to pay the remaining amounts owed RNV.

Dockter said the defendant accepted the benefits of the contract, but has refused to render payments due and owing to RNV.

Dockter said as a result of Imperial's breach of contract, RNV has suffered damages.

The lawyer said over a period of more than one year, the defendant made multiple promises to RNV that its payments were forthcoming.

"Imperial Pacific's actions violate the community standards of decency, fairness, and/or reasonableness," Dockter said.

Dockter said Imperial Pacific intentionally induced RNV to undertake additional work, at no cost to Imperial Pacific, based upon its false promise of payment.

MAYOR

From Page 1

I just hope he can stay strong. This is really shocking news to all of us and everyone in the office would like to extend our deepest condolences to the family," Hofschneider said.

News of Tonie Apatang's demise spread on island around 3pm yesterday. It was not immediately confirmed what caused her demise but there have been reports of her battling some form of cancer. She and Mayor David Apatang left Saipan on Oct. 27 and, after staying a week in Guam, arrived in Hawaii for treatment.

Yuki Kishimoto, student exchange program coordinator for the Saipan Mayor's Office, said, "I'm deeply saddened by this. I know it will take time, but I hope the mayor will be okay soon. We just hope he knows we're here for him if he needs any assistance."

Prior to her condition, Apatang was an employee of Saipan's IT&E.

Natashia N. Tomokane, prepaid product manager for IT&E, said, "IT&E staff and management are deeply saddened to learn of the loss of a former employee, colleague, and friend, Mrs. Tonie Apatang. Tonie worked for IT&E for almost 15 years and played an instrumental role in strengthening the relationship between IT&E and government leaders. Her bubbly personality and people skills forged friendships with everyone she came in contact with. She will truly be missed. IT&E extends its condolences to Tonie's family and friends as they mourn the passing of a wonderful woman."

Acting Saipan mayor Antonia Tudela said, "The passing of the late Tonie Apatang is very sad for us. I actually wanted her to be back on island as soon as possible, but what can we do when God has different plans for us? We're just waiting for more information about the issue but we still intend on continuing the mayor's mission here on island while he's away. It is during times like these where we should not forget the responsibilities entrusted to us by Mayor Apatang."

Tudela also recently experienced the death of a loved one, so the passing of Tonie Apatang took a toll on her.

"I'm really hurt by this. My daughter actually passed away this year at the age of 50. So for something like this to happen while I'm still trying to recover is just devastating. I didn't know Tonie's condition was that serious, but I hope Mayor Apatang is alright," Tudela said.

Tonie Apatang just celebrated a birthday on Nov. 7.

In a post on Facebook, acting governor Victor Hocog said: Mr. Mayor, on behalf of Gov. [Ralph] Torres, our executive departments personnel join me in extending our deepest sympathy and condolences to you and your family. We will remember her in our thoughts and prayers. May she now rest in peace [in] the hands of the Lord.

CUSTODIAN

From Page 1

from Oct. 23 to Nov. 30, 2016.

Frink also asked the court to order Yamamoto to pay the estimated $48,502.05 in anticipated custody charges for December 2016.

National Maritime wants to be paid a total of $82,462.33 within 72 hours.

National Maritime Services president Alan Swimmer, in his declaration filed in court yesterday, stated that their company, based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, provides marine vessel custodial services.

Swimmer said NMS has previously been appointed by the court to act as the substitute custodian for M/V *Luta*.

Swimmer said invoice for services rendered in October and November 2016 as well as written estimate for services rendered in December 2016 were presented to Yamamoto and his counsel last Nov. 22.

To date, Swimmer said, neither of the invoices have been paid.

"As a result, payment to NMS is past due and NMS could potentially withdraw as vessel custodian upon three days advance notice if payment is not rectified immediately," Swimmer said.

Yamamoto is suing Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog and the owner/operators of M/V *Luta*. In his lawsuit, Yamamoto alleged that Hocog and co-defendants refused to pay back the $3.4 million that he put up for M/V *Luta*.

Yamamoto, through George Lloyd Hasselback, is suing Hocog, M/V *Luta*, Luta Mermaid LLC, Abelina T. Mendiola, Deron T. Mendiola, Fidel S. Mendiola III, Fidel Mendiola Jr., and Robert Toelkes.

Yamamoto is suing them for breach of contract, fraud, and unjust enrichment.

The U.S. Marshal Service seized M/V *Luta* last Oct. 25 and appointed National Maritime Services Inc. as custodian.

After Yamamoto filed the case in federal court, two companies and crewmembers of M/V *Luta* also joined in the lawsuit.

It was former Department of Public Lands secretary John DelRosario who first filed a lawsuit against Hocog over the M/V *Luta*. Last May, DelRosario filed the taxpayer's lawsuit against Hocog and Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson over the alleged adoption of a Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution 19-3 without public notice that purportedly authorized payment of $400,000 to Luta Mermaid, a private company owned by Hocog's relatives.

GOP

From Page 1

Representatives last week but the Senate failed to act on it.

"We're hopeful with the Republican majority at the U.S. Congress—House and Senate—the bill would go through and [finally] address the workforce needs that we have here," said Demapan, the CNMI House of Representatives' Federal and Foreign Affairs chair.

Demapan believes timing is an issue for HR 6401 failing to hurdle the U.S. Senate. "I think the Senate's decision for the most part is an issue of timing. The bill came up very late. But we were fortunate to have the assistance of Delegate [Amata] Radewagon to get past the House."

Radewagon is American Samoa's non-voting delegate; she is a Republican, a ranking member of the Committee on Natural Resources, and holds the vice chair post of the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs.

Demapan pointed out that the provisions of HR 6401 are not an issue and it is the Senate's prerogative to act on it. "The Senate had a lot of bills on its calendar and this is one that did not make it. But I believe the underlying issue is not about the provisions of the bill. Rather, the timing as the U.S. Senate prepares to transition to the new body."

He said CNMI officials remain hopeful HR 6401 would get past the Senate with Sablan, the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and business leaders throwing their full support behind the bill.

"Again, we haven't completely lost hope. [We] believe Delegate Sablan would continue to address the issue in the next U.S. Congress," added Demapan.

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) had put on hold all bills that reached their chamber. The Senate Judiciary Committee also objected to passing immigration legislation.

HR 6401, if it had passed the Senate and signed by President Barack Obama before his term ends on Jan. 20 next year, could have increased the CW1 numerical cap from 12,998 to 15,000. Sablan's bill is also known as the Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act.

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INVITATION FOR BID

Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters - Rota Municipality Government Buildings
ITB17-GOV-048

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the CNMI Hazard Mitigation Grant Program are soliciting sealed bids for the supply and installation of typhoon shutters at various government buildings on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available December 15, 2016 at the CIP Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A $50.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference followed by site visitation on Rota for this project on January 6, 2017, 10:00 a.m. ChST at the Rota Mayor's Office conference room. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Leona DLG. Sablan in writing by e-mail: leona.cip@gmail.com, on or before January 11, 2017 to the CIP Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked ITB17-GOV-048 Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters- Rota Municipality Government Buildings. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST, January 20, 2017. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST, January 20, 2017 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 20, 2017 and the bid documents must be received no later than January 31, 2017. Failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at 10:00 a.m. ChST, February 1, 2017. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at 10:00 a.m. ChST January 20, 2017.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:
a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 120 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

Herman S. Sablan, Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply

Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan

Joey P. San Nicolas
Mayor

Te:; (670) 433-1800/2
Fax: (670) 433-1819

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
Provision of Project Management Services for
The Office of the Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan
RFQ17-MOT-043

Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas, through the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan, (collectively, "Municipality") are soliciting sealed proposals from Architects and Engineers to provide Project Management Services for the Renovation of the Tinian Gymnasium and other capital improvement projects as needed.

Procurement procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30.3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70-30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public Law 15-95 (Local Preference Act) as amended by Public Law 15-118 shall apply to this locally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor, and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Interested parties may pick up the applicable scope of work (SOW) and submittal requirements at the Tinian Liaison Office located at the **Tinian Guesthouse, Navy Hill Rd, Navy Hill, Saipan**, beginning **Wednesday, December 7, 2016**. A pre-proposal meeting will be held at Henry G. Hofschneider Conference Room, located at the Tinian Mayor's Office in San Jose Village, Tinian, at 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on Thursday, December 15, 2016.

Questions regarding this RFQ may be submitted in writing to Ms. Alexis Hofschneider at alexishofschneider@gmail.com or faxed to 433-1819 no later than **Monday, December 19, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. (ChST).**

Selected Project Managers will be retained as independent contractors under general provision of the Contracting Officer or his/her designee. Project Managers will act as agents of the expenditure authority on projects to ensure that identified objectives are achieved within cost, time and legal requirements while maintaining effective stakeholder communications. Selected Project Managers will be retained of a six (6) month contract with an option to renew for an additional six (6) months at the discretion of the Municipality. Project Managers include Architects, Civil, Mechanical, and Electrical Engineers.

Compensation for Project Management services will be determined based on the number of assigned projects including payments for approved staff and expenses. The Municipality will negotiate with the selected Project Managers to determine the scope of work and responsibilities. Individuals or firms selected as Project Managers would be precluded from providing any other services associated with the assigned project(s).

To qualify, firms must have a valid CNMI Business License, be currently licensed to practice engineering in the CNMI, and must hold a Certificate of Authorization, if applicable.

Statements of qualifications may be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330, or the latest version of Standard Forms. Only professionally licensed firms with a valid CNMI business license will be considered. Statement of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualification of Firm and/or Personnel – 40%
2. Experience in Project Management – 30%
3. Work Load – 15%
4. Experience with Tinian Mayor's Office Projects – 15%
5. Fee Estimate on a Per Hourly Rate – 0%

Fee estimates will assist the Municipality with budgeting purposes only. Fee estimates will not be a part of the evaluation criteria.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three (3) ranked firms or with all the firms. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The selected firm will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with NMIAC Section 70-30.3-245 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Qualifications statements must be sealed and marked **"RFQ17-MOT-043", Project Management Services for the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the qualifications statement must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP, no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on Tuesday, December 27, 2016**.

Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST), on Tuesday, December 27, 2016, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com.

For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed qualifications statement must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **Tuesday, December 27, 2016** and the proposal documents must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **Tuesday, January 3, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Municipality reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

Joey P. San Nicolas
Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Kagman is pilot area for upgraded internet

As part of IT&E's continuing efforts to provide improved services to all of its customers by enhancing the CNMI's telecommunications infrastructure, IT&E announced yesterday that it has started testing increased Internet speeds and capacity to a group of selected residents in Kagman.

Kagman is one of the most densely populated areas on Saipan. This made it an ideal location to measure improvement in service and superior customer experience. The tests so far have been extremely successful and residents an increase in speeds of up to 40 mbps [megabytes per second] in their homes.

IT&E is investing millions of dollars in both its buried and wireless networks to provide improved internet speeds as well as the overall experience through service. These improvements include burying fiber optic cables around the island, connecting all cellular sites to this fiber optic network, and expanding the 4G/LTE capabilities at several additional locations.

IT&E is testing these improved networks for both business and residential customers in various locations around Saipan and expects to complete these tests by the end of the month. IT&E expects to offer these new fiber-based services to its customers beginning in early 2017.

IT&E is currently evaluating its existing internet solutions with these new improvements in mind. Customers can expect to avail of bundled services with faster Internet speeds, at affordable rates. As always, IT&E will continue to invest and provide the people of the Marianas with a link to the world around them by constantly upgrading and improving its fixed and wireless services. ***(IT&E)***

'MPLT funds' interest can help govt programs'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas Public Land Trust board member Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero said the interest earned on the money they receive from public land leases could also be a funding source for the CNMI government. MPLT's main function is managing the money it gets from public land leases. The fund is in a trust fund.

Deleon Guerrero said the MPLT is mandated by the CNMI Constitution to remit the interest earned by the trust fund to the Commonwealth government's general revenue.

"The Constitution is clear. The interest earned shall be remitted with all revenues of the government," said Deleon Guerrero. "The money will then be appropriated by the Legislature to [departments or programs like] the Public School System, the Department of Public Safety, and other essential services and programs."

A portion of Subsection D, Article XI, Section VI of the CNMI Constitution states: "The trustees shall transfer to the general revenues of the Commonwealth the remaining interest accrued on the trust proceeds except that the trustees may retain the amount necessary to meet reasonable expenses of administration."

Another MPLT purpose is to hold and invest the proceeds from leases and other transfers of public land. "We are not violating any laws since people of Northern Marianas descent would directly benefit from it. But there must be a program that should be put together."

Deleon Guerrero said he would discuss with other MPLT board members, trustees, consultants, and the Legislature on how to discuss some of their concerns.

"There were concerns that were raised and we're going to look at it. The Constitution is clear that the MPLT's funding should not be used for obligations of the [CNMI] government. It is not their revenue," added Deleon Guerrero.

"There's a possibility the funds can be taken out, but it's very restrictive. [Only] to be used for essential and beneficial programs that would greatly benefit [NMDs]. The CNMI Constitution states public land belongs to [NMDs]."

The money collected from public land leases shall be placed in a trust fund, with MPLT having the money management function.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres reappointed Deleon Guerrero, who was also a former chair of the MPLT board. The Senate has already confirmed Deleon Guerrero.

Deleon Guerrero was also a House speaker during the 7th NMI Legislature.

Lani N. Pelisamen
P.O. Box 500193
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 288-4637

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF AS GUARDIAN OF THE ESTATE OF **AP – MAY 27, 2006 MP – SEPTEMBER 25, 2012 EP – SEPTEMBER 28, 2013)** Minor Child
by
Lani N. Pelisamen Petitioner

FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0584

NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor child by Lani N. Pelisamen, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior before the Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja on the 19th day of January, 2017 at 10:30 A.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
FAX: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROMEO C. VILLA Petitioner,
Versus
EVA ALQUEZA VILLA Respondent.

FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0589

SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Ilimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitinoer's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:
Dated this 6th day of December, 2016.

/s/ **Deputy of Court**
Superior Court

Nicanor Flores Norita
P.O. Box 500193
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 288-4637

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF AS GUARDIAN OF THE ESTATE OF **VDRPJr (4/26/02), VRPN (10/3/05), VNPN (01/18/09), RLCN (04/18/09), and VBMN (02/06/13)** Minor Children
by
Nicanor Flores Norita Petitioner

FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0592

NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor child by Nicanor F. Norita, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Associate Judge Govendo on the 19th day of January, 2017 at 10:30 A.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Tinian school projects begin in 2017

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth Affairs, together with Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation chair Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), talked with Public School officials how added funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be spent.

Public Law 19-31 authorized PSS to enter into a loan agreement with USDA to fund the construction of additional classrooms and Early Head Start Centers, and pave roads and parking lots on Tinian and Rota public schools.

PL 19-31, originally marked as House Bill 19-39, was introduced by Rep. Antonio M. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) along with several of his colleagues, in January this year. The loan totals $5 million and a portion of it would go to Tinian.

It was only recently that both parties agreed on the fund amount after a number of discussions and other setbacks. The pavement of the Tinian Elementary School parking lot and construction of an alternative entrance for the Tinian Early Head Start Program are the projects to be done.

Construction will begin in mid- or late-January 2017, where the completion of the project is expected around May or before the school year ends.

Hofschneider said the projects would benefit the people of Tinian, especially the students of TES and EHS. "It has been a tedious journey but finally we have met our objective as to securing the funds for the much needed improvement of both TES and the Head Start program."

"One of my main concerns is of the safety, health, and welfare of the students during the dry season. …[but] the end result of this project would benefit the community tremendously."

He commended the hard work done by all education officials and other individuals that helped in the project.

"I commend the continuous dedication of CNMI PSS officials, the Board of Education, the CNMI Legislature, the Department of Public Works, and the Governor's Office for coming together to achieve this major undertaking," added Hofschneider.

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I visited Rota island after a quite long absence and received a very warm hospitality from my colleague, Mr. Hocog and family. One of my Japanese investor companies was with me in my visit to Rota. He was so impressed with Rota and Saipan. Next time he wants to visit Tinian.

I was very impressed and exchanged meaningful opinion for a development project with Rota Mayor Atalig. I was reminded that when the people of Rota cooperates, tourists and investors in Rota and Saipan increases. I will do my best to make Japanese tourists return home like the old days.

At the same time, I visited Mana'amko homes, my first 9 years ago. I brought a small gift from Japan and everyone was delighted by it. I want to keep this exchange program to continue for a long time.

I fly around the world but my heart will always be on Rota and in the CNMI.

Masahiro Watanabe

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Trip to Japan available for students K-12

By MICHAEL T SANTOS
michael.santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office is hosting another trip to Japan for students ranging from Kindergarten to high school seniors. This time, the trip will take place from Feb. 8 to 14.

Yuki Kishimoto, student exchange program coordinator, said, "The trip is going to be really cold, since it's winter. It'll be a great experience for those who haven't seen snow yet in their lives. Plus it should provide a big cultural difference as opposed to what they are used to over here."

Students can expect to visit places such as Kyoto and Nagano as well as an opportunity to meet with officials such as the Kyoto and Nagano mayors and possibly Kyoto's governor.

Luise Villagomez, Saipan Mayor's Office staff, said, "All student exchange trips, whether they're from the mayor's office or not, offer a really good experience for participants. I've actually gone on a trip like this when I was younger. To see a drastic change in Japan is really interesting. These trips also serve as a way to maintain good relations with Japan."

There might also be a chance to experience school life with several elementary school children in Japan. Attendees will participate in lectures as well as lunch and other activities.

"Just like other programs we offer, it is for the purpose of promoting our islands as well as sharing cultures among countries," Kishimoto said.

For all who wish to apply, the deadline for submission of documents is on Dec. 20. Forms are located at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JOETEN DONATES TO MCS

Joeten Motors recently made an Education Tax Credit contribution to Mount Carmel School. School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, third from right, visited Joeten Motors' Kia showroom to receive the contribution from, from left, sales consultant Tina Togawa, F&I administrator Elizabeth Tenorio, general manager Matthew Deets, sales consultant Julie Manglona, and service manager Calvin Yamagishi.

248 expected to graduate at UOG this fall

MANGILAO, Guam—The University of Guam is expected to confer 248 degrees during its fall 2016 commencement ceremony at 2pm on Sunday, Dec. 18, 2016, at the UOG Calvo Field House.

Of the expected graduates, 190 will receive undergraduate degrees and 58 will receive graduate degrees.

Commencement speaker

The commencement speaker will be Brig. Gen. Tracy L. (Artero) Smith who currently serves as the deputy commanding general for Support, 807th Medical Command. Earlier this year, she became the first Chamorro woman to make the rank of general officer in the armed forces with her promotion to brigadier general in the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Service Corps.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brig. Gen. Tracy L. (Artero) Smith currently serves as the deputy commanding general for Support, 807th Medical Command.

An alumna of UOG, Smith was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps through the ROTC program at the University of Guam, where she was awarded a four-year Merit Scholarship and a two-year ROTC national scholarship. She graduated with a bachelor of Business Administration in 1987. She holds a masters of Business Administration from Troy State University, 2002 and a masters in Strategic Studies from the Army War College, 2007, resident.

For more on the University of Guam spring 2016 commencement ceremonies, visit www.uog.edu/fall-2016-commencement. ***(UOG)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Water outages in Oleai, CK

Residents of Oleai and Chalan Kanoa will experience a temporary water service interruption starting today, Dec.14, through Dec. 23. The interruptions will be daily from 3am to 5am,as part of an ongoing leak detection program, which will affect the respective areas at this time. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Cop. Customer Call Center at 664-4282. ***(PR)***

MHS PTA meeting tonight

Marianas High School will hold its Parents Teachers Association meeting today, Dec. 14, 2016, starting at 6pm at the MHS Counseling office. ***(PR)***

IP host gov.mp temporarily down

This is to inform the general public that the IP host gov.mp will temporarily be down until further notice. As a result, certain department websites will be down for maintenance. We apologize for any inconvenience this matter may cause. ***(PR)***

Join the annual Christmas Bird Count

On Dec. 19, birders are invited to participate in Saipan's Annual Christmas Bird Count. Volunteers will meet at 6am at the American Memorial Park. Bring binoculars if you have them, but it's okay if you don't. For more information, contact Steve Mullin at 664-6011 or smullin.cnmi.dfw@gmail.com /. ***(PR)***

Wage and salary statement workshop

The Division of Revenue and Taxation, Department of Finance will be conducting a workshop for the Annual Wage and Salary Statement, Form (W-2CM) for tax year 2016 and other 2016 year-end filing requirements. The workshop will be on Friday, Dec. 16, 2016. The first seminar will be from 8am to 11am and the second will be from 1pm to 4pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. Confirm your attendance by calling the Division of Revenue and Taxation at 664-1000 and 664-1098 or fax at 664-1015. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DCCA-045

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 30, 2016 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A CLASS "D" VEHICLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **ROBERT H. HUNTER**
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DCRM-060

SUBMISSION DATE: January 11, 2017 TIME: 10:00A.M.

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COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED A THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTERST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB17-DCRM-061

SUBMISSION DATE: January 11, 2017 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTERST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DOC-055

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 23, 2016 TIME: 10:00A.M.

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **MARK O. RABAULIMAN**
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP17-BECQ-054

SUBMISSION: JANUARY 6. 2017 TIME 10:00 A.M.

"INSTALLATION OF A TELEPHONE SYSTEM FOR OFFICE TELECOMMUNICATION OPERATION FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **DECEMBER 7, 2016** FROM THE BECQ OFFICE OR BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **jessetenorio@becq.gov.mp. QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE E-MAILED TO jessetenorio@becq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSNESS, **DECEMBER 23, 2016.**

THE PROVISION OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT AND REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP17-BECQ/DCRM-050

SUBMISSION: JANUARY 6. 2017 TIME 10:00 A.M.

"CUBICLE WORKSTATIONS/PARTITIONS & OFFICE FURNITURE/FIXTURES & MOBILE RACK SYSTEM FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY – DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **DECEMBER 7, 2016** FROM THE BECQ OFFICE OR BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **janicecastro@becq.gov.mp.** QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE E-MAILED TO janicecastro@becq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSNESS, **DECEMBER 23, 2016.**

THE PROVISION OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT AND REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT

/S/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PSS pins hope on Senate for buses, books, CUC arrears

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed Monday a bill that provides additional funding for various government institutions, including the Public School System, which will get an additional over $10.2 million. House Bill 19-212 is now up for Senate review and passage.

HB 19-212 will be funding more than 10 government agencies, including the Northern Marianas College and the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

If the bill passes the Senate, PSS would get over $10.2 million to buy textbooks, school buses, and to pay for PSS' outstanding balance with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez thanked the House for passing the bill.

"We are extremely thankful for the governor and Legislature's support of HB 19-212," said Fernandez. "The additional funds will help the college pay for expenses related to facilities improvements, the purchase of new classroom furniture, technology upgrades, and other critical costs."

Board of Education chair Herman Guerrero is also pleased with the outcome of the House session.

"It's a plus for PSS. We really need the money because the textbooks are very critical, especially for K-12. Those are just the basic instructional materials that we're providing for the kids. We still need other textbooks for teachers as supplemental textbooks to be used in the classroom," said Guerrero.

"We are very glad and hope that the Senate goes along without amending it because it poses another challenge for us and we might miss the opportunity to purchase the necessary books for the children," added Guerrero.

Money allotted for the purchase of textbooks totals $5.5 million.

"The associate commissioner for Curriculum and Instructional services [Jackie Quitugua] told us that if we don't purchase this by the end of this year, then the cost of the books would go up," he added.

A total of five school buses would be bought, amounting to about $1 million.

"We also really need buses for the island of Saipan. Unfortunately, it costs about $200,000 per bus," said Guerrero. "We also need to pay off the debts that [PSS] owe CUC. We did include that in our budget, [but now] at least we can [pay for it] because CUC sometimes need the money," said Guerrero.

About $2.7 million is allotted for payment of PSS' outstanding balance with CUC.

The rest would fund Saipan, Rota, and Tinian schools' maintenance and repairs.

NMC and NMTI will also be receiving an additional $1 million and $150,000, respectively, with expenditure authority for NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez and NMTI CEO Agnes McPhetres.

JON PEREZ

House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan, second left, talks with Reps. Angel A. Demapan, seated left, Antonio P. Sablan, and vice speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero during a recess in Monday's session.

Federal judge OKs $380K for materials, preparation for fuel storage tank repair

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter approved Monday the U.S. government's request for a task order relating to the repair of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Tank 103, an aboveground storage tank that stores diesel for electric power production at CUC's power plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base.

Carter also authorized the Engineering and Environmental Management Company's use of up to $380,000 in court registry funds for the task order's procurement activities.

Carter said task order 6 would permit the early procurement of Tank 103 repair materials and other preparation to allow for the repair of the tank in 2017.

Senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien of the U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section, who is also counsel for the U.S. government, made the request for the court's approval.

O'Brien said CUC and the CNMI government support the request.

O'Brien said American Petroleum Institute Standard 653 inspections were successfully conducted and determined that Tank 103 had significant structural deficiencies that must be repaired prior to returning the tank to service.

The lawyer noted that the parties in the case agree that the Tank 103 repair is a high priority project and should be completed in 2017.

Anticipating grant funding in 2017, the parties reached a tentative agreement on the scope of the Tank 103 repair.

"This repair will include installing a new tank bottom, roof and vent repairs, tank coating, corrosion pit repairs, gauging upgrades, pressure relief, and piping upgrades," O'Brien said.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

(This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.)

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt Governor Victor B. Hocog, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman, Mr. Ignacio L. Perez, wish to announce that its Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER) for Program Year 2015 is available for review. Comments made by the general public should be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on December 22, 2016. Written comments must be submitted to the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by contacting Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, at 234-9447/7689.

The report will be submitted to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Honolulu Office, by December 31, 2016. The CAPER encompasses the performance assessment of all HUD-funded programs, administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The report is available at the NMHC Central Office in Saipan and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Rota and Tinian during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. Individuals needing special accommodations to review and comment on the plan must contact the Planning Division for arrangements by calling (670) 234-7689/6866 during regular business hours.

/s/ Ignacio L. Perez
Chairman of the Board

Office of the Mayor

Municipality of Tinian & Aguiguan

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Office of the Mayor, Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan, will hold a public information meeting on Wednesday, January 04, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. at the Tinian Public Library, San Jose Village. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the Municipality of Tinian's proposed USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Direct Loan application.

The low-interest loan will be used to 1) fund the design and construction of secondary roads at Marpo Heights II and 2) fund the design and construction of a new Mayor's Office. The public is cordially invited to attend this meeting and comment on the proposed projects.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fourteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. at the Federal Programs Office Conference Room, Building 1203, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA[1]

I. Preliminary
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
   a. October 19, 2016 Special Board Meeting
   b. November 3, 2016 Special Board Meeting
   c. November 18, 2016 Special Board Meeting

II. Public Comments[2]

III. Reports
1. Chair
2. Board Committees
   a. CIP
   b. FPA
   c. ISA
   d. SICPP
   e. SARC
3. Commissioner of Education
   a. 2016 Teacher of the Year
   b. Financial Status Reports
      i. Federal
      ii. Local
      iii. Non-Appropriated Funds
   c. Head Start Program
   d. Office of Curriculum & Instruction
   e. Others

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business
1. GO Bond Projects
2. Head Start Program
   a. SY 16-17 Community Assessment Plan
   b. SY 16-17 Self-Assessment Plan
3. Updated Salary Increase 2016-2017
4. Pay Differential for Acting COE
5. Head Start Program Director
6. SARC Coordinator
7. Administrative Specialist I for CLO-BOE
8. Child Abuse & Neglect Policy
9. Child Care Policy
10. Curriculum & Instruction
    a. Textbooks for K-12
    b. Textbook Proposal: Island Ecology and Resource Management
    c. Textbooks and Supplemental Materials
11. Early Intervention Program
    a. FFY 2015 Annual Performance Report (APR)
12. Certification and Licensure Matters
    a. CLO Report No. 2016-013
    b. CLO Report No. 2016-014

VI. Executive Session[3]
1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel/Certification
3. Other matters

VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

VIII. Adjournment

[1] In the event that the items on the agenda are not completed, the meeting will recess and reconvene on the following day or at the most expeditious date and time determined by the Board.
[2] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[3] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

South Korea's drama: A strong democracy will survive an impeachment

President Park Geun-hye was impeached and all of her powers suspended Friday by the South Korean parliament in an overwhelming 234-56 vote. The vote came against a background of demonstrations in the streets by an estimated 2 million protesters, a popularity rating for Park that had hit a low of 4 percent, and a poll that indicated that 8 out of 10 South Koreans were ready to see her go. The basic cause of their discontent with her as president turned on extensive evidence of crony capitalism.

Choi Soon-sil, a close, unelected, nongovernmental confidante of Park, also described as her spiritual adviser, was deeply immersed in Park's exercise of her governmental functions, and was particularly active in shaking down South Korean companies and their executives, to her profit and, presumably, to Park's as well. One charge against Park and Choi was that the president had shared with her confidential government documents that she was not authorized to see.

Park's impeachment will need to be reviewed by South Korea's constitutional court for its validity and the court has 180 days—until June—to do so although it may choose to act more quickly in response to popular pressure. In the meantime, Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn, not even a member of parliament, will be in charge. If the impeachment is found legitimate, new presidential elections will follow.

This period is not the easiest for South Korea to go through with its presidency somewhat up in the air. North Korea is under new pressure from the U.N. Security Council, which imposed additional economic sanctions on it late last month, including on its coal exports, in response to its continuing defiance of previous U.N. resolutions regarding its nuclear weapons activities.

Worst of all from North Korea's point of view, China, its best customer, voted for the new sanctions, although it is not certain that China will enforce the measure, for its own reasons. The risk for South Korea of this period of uncertainty is that the sometimes unpredictable Kim Jong Un of North Korea may see this period as an opportunity for mischief, or even an attack, in the fluid leadership situation in the south.

South Korea is also looking at some uncertainty in its relationship with the United States as it passes from the presidency of Barack Obama to that of President-elect Donald Trump. Trump has suggested that a country like South Korea, the world's 12th-largest economy, should finance for itself the U.S. military protection it receives. There are currently 28,500 U.S. troops and many bases in South Korea.

South Korea's democracy has traveled a rocky road ever since World War II, including dictators and military rulers, including Park's father, until it moved to elective democracy in 1987. The country's democracy is fully expected to survive the current storm, proving that it can handle an impeachment, but the coming months won't be easy.

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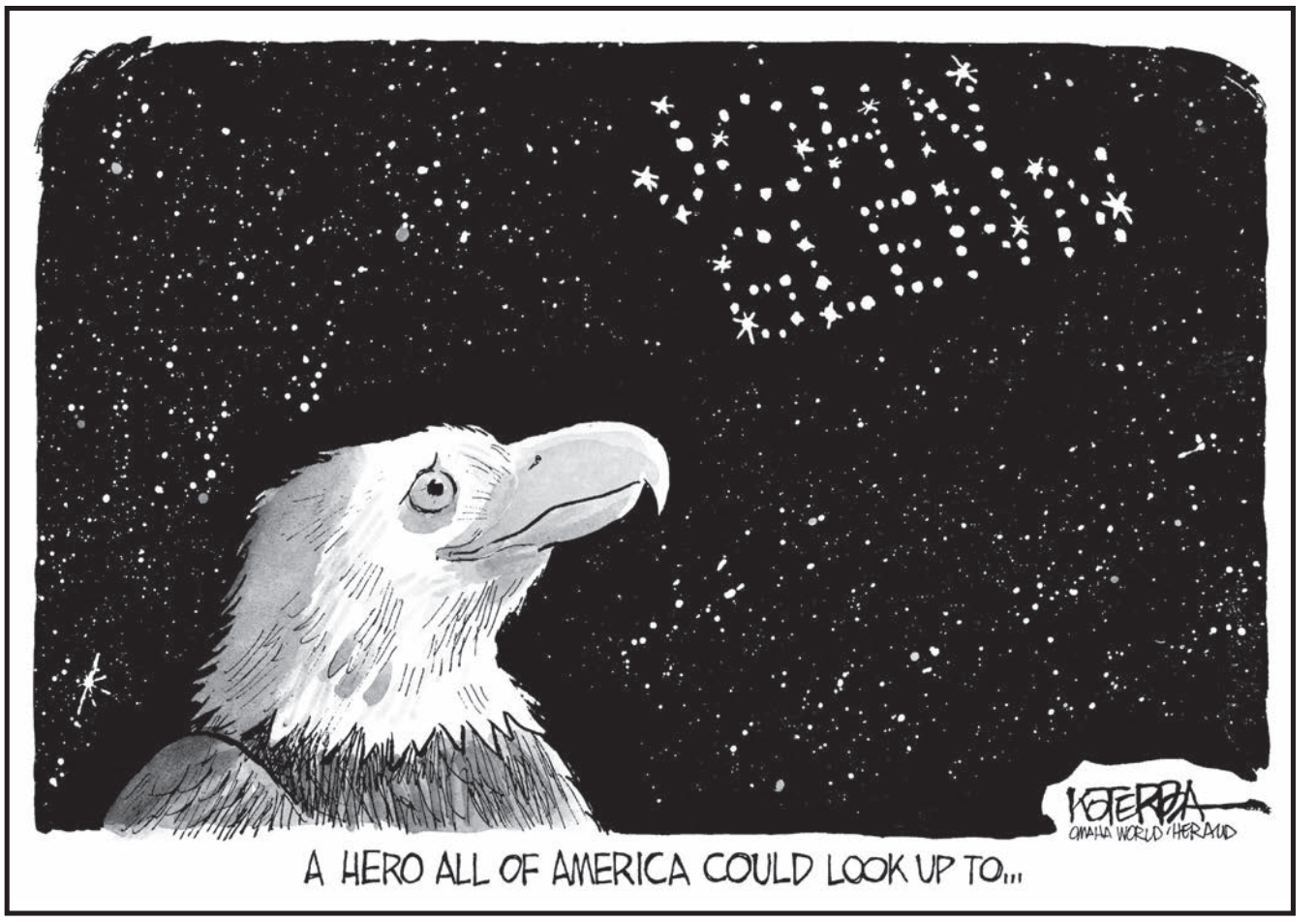


If Russia interfered in election, what could US do?

By NOAH FELDMAN
Bloomberg View

Noah Feldman is a Bloomberg View columnist. He is a professor of constitutional and international law at Harvard University and was a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice David Souter. Readers may email him at nfeldman7@bloomberg.net.

If Russia really tried to throw the U.S. election to Donald Trump, what then? Did the hacking violate international law? And if so, what can the U.S. do to retaliate? The short answer is that trying to change the outcome of another country's election does violate a well-recognized principle of international law, and the U.S. would be legally justified in taking "proportionate countermeasures." But, in a painful twist, the best precedent comes from a 1986 case the U.S. lost and never accepted.

There are essentially two ways to establish a principle of international law: by treaty or by custom, and there's no explicit treaty prohibiting nations from intervening in one another's affairs. That makes nonintervention a principle of customary international law, albeit a custom sometimes honored more in the breach.

The idea that states should leave one another alone certainly makes sense. On some level the whole theory of national sovereignty—the cornerstone of modern international law—depends on that idea.

The Founding Fathers' favorite international law theorist, Emmerich de Vattel, put it this way in 1758: "It clearly follows from the liberty and independence of nations that each has the right to govern itself as it thinks proper, and that no one of them has the least right to interfere in the government of another."

At a minimum, nonintervention means not using coercive force in another country. Russia, of course, didn't use force to intervene in the U.S. election, the way it did in Crimea, for example.

But the International Court of Justice has interpreted the principle of nonintervention to extend beyond force. Its most notable discussion of the issue came in the 1986 case of Nicaragua v. U.S. There, in Paragraph 205 of the judgment, the court said it was unlawful for a state to intervene in a way "bearing on matters in which each State is permitted, by the principle of State sovereignty, to decide freely"—and that included "the choice of a political, economic, social and cultural system, and the formulation of foreign policy."

In a 2005 case, the international court said expressly that the principle as described in the Nicaragua case prohibits a state "to intervene, directly or indirectly, with or without armed force, in support of the internal opposition within a State."

That's pretty close to what Russia is alleged to have done: intervene without armed force in support of one party in a U.S. election.

Violations of international law are funny things. Because there is no international super-sovereign, the fact of a violation doesn't usually trigger immediate legal consequences.

The U.S. could certainly sue Russia in the International Court of Justice. But it would have to get over the embarrassment of citing the Nicaragua decision, which went against the U.S. and awarded reparations to Nicaragua for the Americans' support of the Contras, in violation of the principle of nonintervention.

To make matters worse, the U.S. never accepted the result in the Nicaragua case. After appearing in court to say that the international court didn't properly have jurisdiction over it, the U.S. took its ball and went home, refusing to appear and argue during the merits stage. Subsequently, the U.S. made sure to veto United Nations Security Council Resolutions that would have required it to comply with the judgment—a total of six times.

But if the U.S. were nevertheless to seek retaliation against Russia, what remedy would be allowed? The court in the Nicaragua case said that violations of the nonintervention principle would justify "proportionate countermeasures." It made it clear, however, that if the original intervention didn't involve force, countermeasures couldn't involve the use of force, which would be disproportionate.

That means the Russian hacking probably can't be construed as an act of war, at least not of the kind that would justify armed retaliation.

The international court declined to say exactly what would count as a proportionate countermeasure. But it did suggest that a country that's been victim of an intervention might be able to "exercise ... some right analogous to the right of collective self-defence."

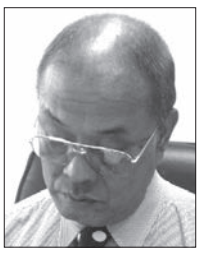
That raises the possibility that the lawful response to Russian efforts to disrupt U.S. elections might be to try to disrupt the Russian political process in return. Ordinarily, that would be an unlawful violation of Russian sovereignty. But just as a violent attack justifies the use of force in return, dirty tricks might justify dirty tricks.

I'm not sure that approach would be wise. As a democracy, the U.S. should be interested in assuring the cleanness of elections, especially because open democracies are the most vulnerable to foreign intervention. Nevertheless, the theoretical possibility exists.

Whether or not the U.S. chooses to retaliate against Russia, we'd do well to keep in mind that as a global superpower, we have done more than our fair share of intervening in other countries' affairs. Russian hacking is an outrage, to be sure. But perhaps the best solution would lie in re-evaluating our own democratic values, so that leaks and fake news don't determine elections in the future.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Liñguahen Buente



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

I palabra solu sahyan ekspressiun tautau gi haf` hinassoña. Ginen fino`ña `nai anok haf` intension yan sentimentoña. Mauleg in` gef adahe usun palabra.

Mauleg ta abirigua haf` gaige gi palabra-ta gi hilu` akomparasion yan finu` Eñglis. I finu` Chamorro hasan palabra ni klaru dumeskribe haf` i mansañgan. Kulan mohon komprendiyun sin masañgan seriosamienti hafa i dichu intension.

Megai besis `nai manma-udai hit gi hilu` "buente, kasi sino fana`an". Ta ekspepekta na sin klaru na palabra siempre umakomprendi. Kulan akseptable i finu` buente.

I palabramu libianu umanog siempre gi haf` dispues mañamu ginen usun palabras.

Este na maña gi liñguahe muna` anog haf` na sessu lokue` ta letki asuntota `nai gi uttimu besis taya` sattun na satbasion.

Hana` hassuyu` finu` biblia `nai ilegña si Jesukristu na yangin para un` sañgan "ahe" sino "huñgan", pues sañgan frañkamienti sin ditension. Cha`mu chachansa muna` ke mestisu fino`mu sa` gigon gatdun hau guennau, pues entre "buente, kasi yan fana`an" `nai lumailai hau.

I finu` Eñglis kabales palabraña gi madeskriben maseha hafa na asuntu sino attikulu. Mampus i finu` Chamorro popble guine na patte piot gi finu` Español "verbo" (verb). Memegaiña ekspressiun sentimentun inekstenden siñiente ke amtau sino prefektu palabra. Pot ihemplu: `An matai esta i tautau, pues matai. I Chamorro ilegña "sen matai". Dios mihu na matdision.

Mauleg ta tutuhun frañkamienti usun dichu palabra gi hilu` klaru na modun konbetsasion. Sañgan gi klaru yan kabales na manera haf` hinasomu! Entre ennau sino todu dia hit manafana`an!

Liñguahe: Guaha na mañeluta man-kabron umatbansa palabra ni ti patte gi finu` Chamorro. Nanalau, kulan mohon dinanchi ya mana` paha usuña.

Dos palabra kumetomba-yu`: mamarientes yan mamarehu. Sin ditension hu dispacha kumu finu` naufragu! Kumeke ileghu tiha tuñgu` liñguahiña ya ume`esuette!

Tai intension-yu` fuma`ichanag i los probes gi finu` niha. Fahagot-yu` guine na puntu piot sa` megai ti tumuñgu` usun hila` nanan niha. Tana`e felis na diniseha i chumochoneg manala`la` usun liñguahe yan kutturan tanu`. Mauleg na pinetsige lau na` seguru na mandinanchi.

Lau muñga pot fabot mahasñgun finabrikan kuttura piot ya hinekan ginen guinifimu! Chatmiyu muna` mamapot i ti mapot! Atan ya in` atetuye haf` iyo-ta ni natibu! Ayu siempre `nai guaha inaya sa` kulan "mamarientes hit!"

**Chenchuli`:** Dos klasen chenchuli` guaha: nina`e kumu regalu yan ika. Mauleg para i manhoben maketuñgu` i difirensia. I mefe`na nina`en namagof na okasion tat kumu gupot. I segundu (ika) chenchule` `an guaha dimalas gi familia. Kustumbre na i segundu manana`lu yangin i prohimu gai achaki.

Este i tatatte umaminasa-yu` piot sa` mediu gi mañeluhu mangaige America. Hu repapasa listan nina`en ika para baina` seguru na innana`lu ayu na fabot. I kumomprendi este na kustumbre guaha `nai ginacha` siempre debi u fanlagnus enkuenta de familiaña. Dios mihu! Guaha `nai hana` chachatfinu`yu` `an kumilulog huyuñg pagamientun social security. Ni unu gaige!

Edukau: He ekuñgog grupun estudiante gi NMC `nai sige madiskuti un` attikulu. Kada unu` mauleg kontribusioña gi madiskuti na asuntun siha. Todu i masañgan mau`udai gi hilu` kabales na faktu ginen lepblun niha yan anchu na diniskute yan maestron niha. Esta namagof ma-ekuñgog sa` hilu` edukau na konbetsasion `nai man-a`adiñgan.

Mesklau na opiñion guaha gi asuntun ya kada unu ha sañgan dibuenamenti haf` hinassoña. Maseha todu atmos banda gumu`ot posisioña ni unu man-emug pot parehu hilu` edukau na eskalera ni sige mabati haf` sineda` kada banda. Dispues, man-adiñgu `nai kada unu pas yan felis gi hinanauña. Namagof!

Guaha unu na sumen kalagtus mandagau rason ya todu atmos banda siña ha lapbla sin umadispacha puntoña. Ha admiti dispues na i dinanche gaige guine osino guihe na banda. I eskaleran inadiñgan sumen namagof ya mauleg i membron lehislatura siha u fan eyag ñaihon "edukau" na dineskuten asuntun linahyan siha! Don't ashame!

Achibau: Manhuyuñg kañgiluñg imperadot hegsu` I Deni`. Era mahatsa sueddun niha sumen guaguan ke haf` magagana pa`gu. Manmalefa na lamayot patte gi enteru empleau iya Marianas i mas numesessita ayudun hatsadan sueddu.

Atan sueddun man-maestro, infetmera, empleau praibet, yan empleau civil service sa` pot mas ke dies años desde ke manmaletki i los prohimus subida. Manmatrata este siha na empleau kulan mohon `anyuti` basula gi kantun chalan.

Yangin mohon guaha amtau yan sattun na inestudiu siempre mañeha ya ileg niha maila` ta nañga estake nahuñg para todus! Kumeke ileghu ha benefisia ayu na lai nesessidat mayotmiente. Lau i betsan niha finenina ma-usuni pot chechu` achibau!

Mauleg sa` paire ha`anen niha na Noche Buena mientras ta tutufuñg sientimus gi monedan familia kau nahuñg para fahan totchi. Dios mihu na che`chu` kabron. Lamayot patte isauta ni botadot sa` sige ha` pega halum lau mandañosu kontra hita. Haf` mohon? Kulan tapbla che`chu` achibau na biahe, no?

Sinetsut: Yangin sumasaunau hau umesalau pot lache na disposision lehislatura, ekahat muna` a`gañg sa` hagu mina` taiguine i asuntu sin ditension. I botumu gi pa`gu monhahayan na eleksion kumonfitma na konfotme hau ni disision niha.

Lastima i nahuñg tiempu para in` atan haf` masusesedi gi hilu` batko-ta. Mas kasi nina` fan lastima hamyu pa`gu `nai ni mona ni tatte sa` esta ha katsague` hinanau sahyan-ta. Siña ha` fumofofu hau, lau hagu solu siña un` sogne pot lache disisionmu na biahe! Puede ti ta repite mismu chinatsaga gi ge` fena.

**Siso` Amaka:** Sige amiguhu Magoo ha chukangue` gi siso` gi tatten kusina. Kontentu!

Katma yan chatgun na oga`an. Sige hu akanteha haf` na no siakassu na biahe.

Era guaha numa`e dosi latan Lite ni hana` maneneñgheñg para i lataloa`ne.

Dispues ha menti pot silensiun i tanu` lau tiempun Noche Buena.

Hu atotga na buente pot chinatsaga na taiguihe mañan mantautau-ta.

"Lau ilegniha na guaha adelantun ekonomia!" ha apunta huyuñg.

Hu tagam na taigue ayu na adelantu gi monedan familia. Kasi siha ha` man-apatte ni chada` oru mientras mayotmente umusuni i mutuñg gueru!

"Lastima i inañgoghun tautau-ta gi finattun Noche Buena".

Maturity is getting it done, no whining

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut, a feminist scholar who has written eight books, and a columnist for the Hartford Courant. *She can be reached through her website at http://www.ginabarreca.com.*

Are you mature enough to pass the light bulb test?

I'd been sharing my mid-20s with an educated, sane man for more than two years when he remarked in his cheerful British accent how amazed he was that given all the time we'd been in our apartment, not one light bulb had ever stopped working.

I looked up from the pile of papers I was grading to double-check if he was not kidding. He wasn't.

"What did you think happened? I sold my soul to the lamp fairy? We practically live in a basement. I replace bulbs constantly," I said.

"I never saw you do it," he replied. "So I merely assumed we were terribly fortunate."

That, my friends, was the end of that relationship and the beginning of the light bulb test.

Here's what maturity does: Maturity fills the salt-shakers and it wipes down the shelves in the fridge when they're sticky. It empties the kitty litter before stalagmites form. Maturity understands that there can be one junk drawer in a house, but not 27.

Maturity doesn't text, type, game or take calls when in conversation with others.

Maturity backs up its files, goes to a doctor or a clinic when it's in pain, and, according to Jan Bell, on occasion picks up the tab when it goes out to dinner with its parents.

Maturity understands that nobody wants the back story of why something didn't get done because it knows that what matters is the effective completion of a task.

In contrast, immaturity has an extensive list of prefab excuses for why it couldn't make its deadline. Immaturity uses every tummy ache, flu, headache, fallen arch, hangnail or breakup as an excuse to slip the knot of accountability. Immaturity, then, doesn't understand why life is always "so unfair, like, always" when it offers criticism instead of condolences for failure.

Immaturity whines; immaturity rolls its eyes; immaturity takes everything personally; immaturity accepts no responsibility; immaturity sprays Febreze on clothes instead of washing them; immaturity shows up late and leaves early.

In short, immaturity is spoiled. And what is spoiled doesn't ripen. It goes bad early, gets bitter and withers on the vine.

Wanting to escape the consequences of inaction or poor choices is my definition of immaturity. It doesn't matter how old you are. One of the most immature statements I've heard was from a woman 20 years my senior. "I'm not bothering to make out a will. The kids will settle it after I'm gone." She sounded smug about the fact that her character would be able to exit the scene before the plot's crisis. She'd convinced herself that she was getting away with something, but I think she was leaving others to clean up her mess—which is a defining feature of immaturity.

While immaturity and laziness are inextricably linked, neither is irrevocable.

TJ Murphy, a recent college graduate, understands maturity better than my older acquaintance. TJ defines maturity in practical terms: "1. Making your own doctor appointments. 2. Separating colors when you do laundry. 3. Rinsing the dishes immediately after use."

Alison Grambs, author of a new book, "Here's Why I Suck, Gramma ... A Bedtime Story for Grown-Ups Who Need To Grow Up," says she knows she is now officially an adult because although she will "still yell and scream and stomp my feet and slam down the phone when fighting with my mom," she will also "Call my mom back, like, immediately, to tell her I love her and that she's actually right about some—just some, but some—things."

Maturity asks for help, asks forgiveness and asks if this is a good time to talk. When maturity goes out for a cup of coffee, it asks if you want one. When maturity argues, it also listens. When maturity laughs, it's in recognition of its own connection to the human condition and it's not at the expense of others.

Maturity understands that there's darkness in the world but that there's no need to dwell in it: We can lighten up and offer illumination to others.

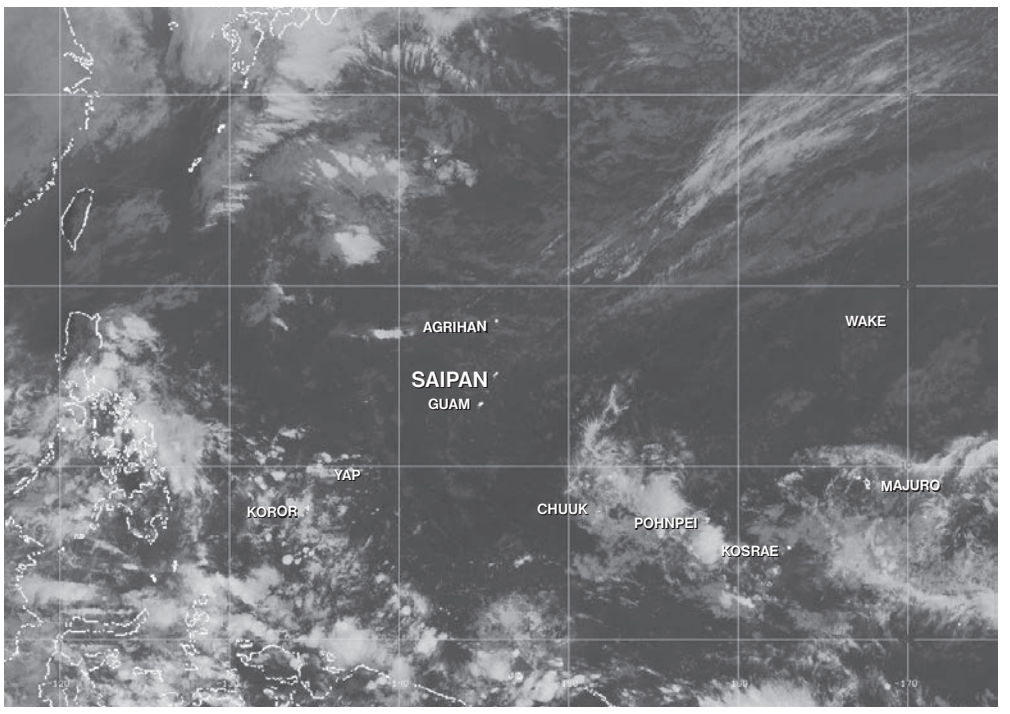
True, you might need to put in a new bulb, but sometimes you can flip the switch, let in the light and with patience, perspective and courage face what's in front of you.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 4:35 AM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Isolated showers with partly cloudy skies and gentle to moderate winds prevail across the Marianas this morning. Latest buoy readings show seas remaining between 6 and 8 feet across coastal waters.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▼ ▲	
Guam and Rota	Mostly sunny	81 / 89 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	79 / 86 °F
Yap	Partly sunny	80 / 86 °F
Chuuk	Partly cloudy	80 / 88 °F
Pohnpei	Afternoon clouds	79 / 82 °F
Kosrae	Mostly cloudy	81 / 86 °F
Majuro	Morning clouds	82 / 85 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE	▼ ▲	
Auckland	Partly cloudy	58 / 68 °F
Beijing	Mostly sunny	15 / 36 °F
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	63 / 72 °F
Honolulu	Mostly sunny	67 / 75 °F
London	Partly cloudy	49 / 54 °F
Los Angeles	High level clouds	54 / 66 °F
Manila	Showers	77 / 84 °F
Melbourne	Morning clouds	54 / 73 °F
Miami	Partly cloudy	74 / 82 °F
New York	Mostly sunny	32 / 41 °F
Osaka	Mostly cloudy	38 / 50 °F
Paris	Partly cloudy	37 / 49 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	40 / 48 °F
Rome	Partly cloudy	40 / 54 °F
Salem	Increasing cloudiness	31 / 35 °F
San Francisco	Heavy rain	51 / 56 °F
Seoul	Morning clouds	22 / 35 °F
Tokyo	Mostly cloudy	43 / 51 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly sunny	31 / 42 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
1:32 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.64 Feet
8:24 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.06 Feet
1:53 PM	LOW TIDE	1.05 Feet
7:00 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.15 Feet

	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Wednesday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Thursday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Friday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM
Saturday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM
Sunday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM

	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Wednesday	-	6:23 AM	6:13 PM
Thursday	-	7:26 AM	7:14 PM
Friday	-	8:26 AM	8:15 PM
Saturday	-	9:21 AM	9:14 PM
Sunday	-	10:12 AM	10:10 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 5, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	7, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Pacific

Pacific workshop enhances auditing's oversight functions

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of a Pacific regional workshop in Honiara, Solomon Islands have their picture taken at the Heritage Hotel.

The Auditor-General's Office of Solomon Islands, together with the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions and the Pacific Financial Technical Center, hosted a Pacific regional workshop in Honiara, Solomon Islands from Dec. 5 to 9, 2016, at the Heritage Hotel.

The theme of this joint PASAI/PFTAC workshop, "Strengthening Oversight Functions of Public Financial Management through Internal and External Audit," is the first in the Pacific region where the objective was to impart knowledge about the critical roles played by external audit (audit offices or also known as supreme audit institutions, or SAIs, and internal audit to improve and contribute to strengthening public financial management to enhance the ability of governments to deliver key services to its citizens.

Twenty-seven auditors from respective SAIs (external audit) and government internal audit divisions/agencies participated in this weeklong workshop representing seven Pacific countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

Participants were encouraged to consider cooperation and coordination with each other to maximize the benefits gained from working together. Toward the end of the workshop, participants from internal and external audit offices of each country spent time to discuss possible collaboration and presented joint country strategies on avenues where they can work together. PASAI/PFTAC will continue to encourage this collaboration through follow up and continuing dialogue with these auditors.

In his opening remarks, Solomon Islands Auditor-General Peter Lokay stated, "This first regional collaboration between internal auditors and external auditor is significant because it will promote good governance through contributions to accountability and transparency in the use of public resources, as well as to promote efficient, effective and economic public administration, to make a difference to the lives of our people in the Pacific."

The regional workshop was developed and delivered by a highly experienced team including PASAI's director of Technical Support Agnes Aruwafu (external audit expert), Sue Morrison (internal audit expert), Chita Marzan, PFTAC's PFM expert, together with invaluable input from Paul Apps, past president/board of directors of the Institute of Internal Audit [IIA Australia]. A session was also delivered by Mark Thompson and Vance Hetariki from Teammate Wolters Kluwer.

PASAI commended the Solomon Islands Office of the Auditor-General for their excellent support and for making this workshop a great success. This included arranging for delegates to be a part of the national "Walk Against Corruption" with them on International Anti-Corruption Day, Dec. 9 and witnessing the launch of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy by Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare.

PASAI acknowledged the financial support of the Australian government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the collaborative ongoing joint regional partnership with PFTAC. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific auditors participate in the "Walk Against Corruption" to celebrate International Anti-Corruption Day on Dec. 9.

Tonga conducts fully automated census

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga—Following recent successes in Tokelau and Vanuatu, the Pacific kingdom of Tonga is modernizing how they conduct their population and housing census by adopting a fully automated system.

The Polynesian nation's census began on Nov. 30, and currently enumerators and supervisors in the field have access to 600 tablets to complete the task.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community is providing technical support to the government of Tonga for this initiative.

"Tokelau was the first in the region to use the automated system with only 30 tablets and Vanuatu is the process of conducting their census with 350 tablets. Tonga tested the use of tablets when a household listing was conducted earlier this year and is now confidently pursuing this method for their census," said Phil Bright, SPC Statistics for Development Division's Geographical Information Systems specialist.

A major advantage of the new system is its ability to provide more control over how data is collected and managed.

Another key feature is the use of field maps generated using satellite imagery to assist enumerators with determining their location in the field.

"The automated system has completely eliminated paper questionnaires which significantly improves the quality of the data with validation checks being done directly on the tablets.

"Questionnaires can be synchronized with the main server whenever there is an Internet connection allowing this vital information to be backed up, and also allowing supervisors and other project staff to have access to the data in real-time in order to perform checks and monitor progress," Bright added.

The census is expected to take approximately three weeks to complete. ***(SPC)***

Promoting energy efficiency in maritime transport

PORT VILA, Vanuatu—A maritime transport energy efficiency workshop, currently underway in Port Vila, Vanuatu, is seeking to establish a platform for collaboration between key players to advance energy efficiency in the Pacific maritime transportation system.

This regional workshop is being hosted by the government of Vanuatu in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the International Maritime Organization.

Edmund Hughes, IMO's head for Air Pollution and Energy Efficiency in the Subdivision for Protective Measures of the Marine Environment Division, stated that shipping, as the most cost effective and energy efficient mode of mass cargo transport, makes a vital contribution to international commerce and is a key pillar for the development of a sustainable global economy.

Hughes also stated that mandatory energy efficiency requirements for international shipping have been in force for nearly four years, leading to over 1,900 oceangoing ships being certified to the new requirements; and it is hoped that through input to this regional workshop, IMO will seek to raise awareness on the development of policy and strategy to effectively implement the international requirements.

Maritime transport is deemed as a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and it is a top priority for action in the context of climate change and its impact in the Pacific region.

The recent ratification of the Paris Agreement and the decisions made at the last Maritime Environment Protection Committee held in London in October this year pave the way toward a more energy efficient maritime transport.

The three-day workshop, attended by the heads of maritime and energy administrations from Pacific Island countries and territories, will discuss initiatives to improve energy efficiency onboard ships and in maritime port infrastructures, alternative and cleaner fuel provision to ships and new technologies and innovation in port and shipping.

"This regional workshop is an important step toward a more energy efficient maritime transport in the Pacific," SPC's Deputy director Transport Thierry Nervale said.

"It is essential to bring to the attention of maritime administrations the last developments at the international level and the benefits that can be expected from small-scale solutions for the Pacific to improve the energy efficiency of domestic ships and ports thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reliance on fossil fuels," Nervale added.

The outcome of the workshop will improve knowledge of participants in energy efficiency measures in maritime transport, to inform appropriate actions in order to scale up energy efficiency operation of ships and ports in the Pacific region.

The workshop ends today. ***(SPC)***

Business

ADB trims growth forecast for Asia due to slowdown in India

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Asian Development Bank on Tuesday trimmed its economic growth forecast this year for developing Asia to 5.6 percent.

The revision was slightly below the previous projection of 5.7 percent due to a slight slowdown in India, one of developing Asia's biggest economies. Forecast growth for the entire region next year remains unchanged at 5.7 percent.

ADB said in a report that India's surprise demonetization of large banknotes will likely dampen growth this year to 7 percent from a previous forecast of 7.4 percent. But South Asia is the most dynamic part of the region, with growth expected at 6.6 percent this year, down from the previous forecast of 6.9 percent. South Asia's growth is estimated at 7.3 percent in 2017.

The report says regional giant China is on course to grow 6.6 percent this year and 6.4 percent in 2017.

AP
Workers rest during lunch break outside a construction site at the Central Business District in Beijing, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016.

East Asia as a whole is seen to expand by 5.8 percent this year and 5.6 percent in 2017 as growth stabilizes in line with earlier forecasts.

The report said growth in the major Southeast Asian economies in the third quarter met projections and even surpassed them in Malaysia and the Philippines. The sub-region is forecast to expand by 4.5 percent in 2016, and picking up to 4.6 percent in 2017.

"Asian economies continue their robust expansion in the face of global economic uncertainties," said ADB Deputy Chief Economist Juzhong Zhuang. "Structural reforms to boost productivity, improve investment climate, and support domestic demand can help maintain growth momentum."

ADB said the combined growth for the major industrial economies exceeded expectations, ticking up 0.1 percentage point to 1.5 percent in 2016. The growth forecast for 2017 is maintained at 1.8 percent, with robust consumer spending supporting the U.S. economy, and monetary policy and improved labor markets fueling growth in the euro area.

Japan's expansion, meanwhile, will be buoyed by strong exports, despite a stronger currency, the report said.

Trump invites trouble if he keeps businesses: ethics experts

NEW YORK (AP)—Donald Trump says he will step away from managing his business empire while he's in office—but he's not going to sell it off. If he follows through, he will shatter a presidential precedent on conflicts, and ethics experts say he will open the door to investigations and lawsuits that could hobble his administration.

"My executives will run it with my children," he said in a Fox News interview that aired Sunday. He added that he will not have "anything to do with management" and won't "do deals" for his business while he's president.

That's "a step in the right direction, but he can't have people doing deals on his behalf," said Richard Painter, the chief White House ethics lawyer under President George W. Bush. "He can't have ownership."

Indeed, for decades, presidents have sold their stocks and other personal holdings and put the cash into a blind trust overseen by an investment manager. For example, to stay on the right side of ethics, President Jimmy Carter sold his Georgia peanut farm.

That was one business. In one state.

The Trump Organization presents a far more complex situation. He has ownership stakes in residential towers, hotels, resorts and golf clubs in the U.S., and has struck licensing and property management deals for similar properties around the world. In a financial disclosure he was required to file during the campaign, he listed stakes in about 500 companies in at least 25 countries.

Only by selling to an uninterested third party can Trump assuage critics who suggest that otherwise he could shape regulatory, tax or foreign policies to enrich himself. A sale would also prevent people from trying to influence policies by helping—or threatening to hurt—his business.

Trump was expected to offer more details at a news conference Thursday, but has postponed that until next month. Few are expecting a clean break from all his ventures.

Newt Gingrich, a vice chairman of Trump's transition team, said voters knew Trump was a billionaire businessman when they elected him and he shouldn't have to sell. Instead, Gingrich said he recommended to transition officials that Trump appoint a panel of five ethics "jurists" to vet potential conflicts.

Trump targets F-35, but aircraft means jobs in 45 states

WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Donald Trump is vowing to corral the "out of control" cost of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. But congressional Republicans and Democrats, aware of the tens of thousands of jobs the aircraft generates in 45 states, will be wary of any plans by Trump to cut the program.

A Monday morning tweet from Trump targeting the F-35 doesn't explain exactly how he'll save billions of dollars in military purchases while also honoring a campaign vow to rebuild the armed forces. Once Trump is in office, he can propose deep cuts to the F-35 or even elect to cancel the program altogether. But Congress, not the president, controls the government's purse strings and makes the final decisions about the budget.

Built by defense giant Lockheed Martin, the nearly $400 billion price tag for the F-35 makes the program the Pentagon's most expensive weapons acquisition ever. Despite the huge cost, the program has strong bipartisan support in Congress, where lawmakers view the aircraft as essential to national security.

Lockheed Martin's stock tumbled after Trump's tweet, wiping out nearly $2 billion of the company's market value. The company's shares fell $6.42, or 2.5 percent, to close at $253.11 Monday.

The F-35 program made up 20 percent of Lockheed's total 2015 revenue of $46.1 billion. U.S. government orders made up 78 percent of its revenue last year.

"Whoever has this airplane will have the most advanced air force in the world. That's why we're building the F35. That's why it's important to not only the U.S., our partners and our partners like the Israeli Air force to have this airplane," said Jeff Babione, general manager of the F-35 program, at a base in Israel.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Chipotle founder Ells takes over as sole CEO

NEW YORK (AP)—Chipotle Mexican Grill named founder Steve Ells as its sole CEO on Monday as the burrito chain keeps trying to recover from a series of food scares that has driven customers away. Ells had been co-CEO with Monty Moran, who is stepping down from that position and from his seat on the board of directors, and will retire from the company in 2017. Ells, who founded the company more than 23 years ago, will remain chairman of the board of directors. "The board and Monty and I talked about the need to have one CEO, one voice, and a very focused approach," Ells told The Associated Press on Monday. Moving to one chief executive is "about stripping away" things that are getting in the way of the business and, in general, complicating what is a "very simple idea," Ells said.

Redstone firm calls off CBS, Viacom merger proposal

ATLANTA (AP)—Media mogul Sumner Redstone's National Amusements is abandoning a proposal that CBS and Viacom reunite after a 10 year split. The news comes as Viacom named acting CEO Bob Bakish as its permanent head. National Amusements, which owns most of the voting shares of the two companies, had urged the companies to combine in September, saying that a tie-up would help them compete better as technology and the entertainment industry rapidly evolve. Now, the company, run by Redstone and his daughter Shari, says that following management changes at Viacom and strength at CBS, which operates CBS, Showtime and other entities, it makes more sense for the companies to continue as separate entities. Viacom, which owns the Paramount Pictures movie studio and pay TV channels such as Comedy Central, MTV, BET and others, has been struggling to improve its profit as Paramount has struggled to produce hits and cable viewership declines.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
19,796.43	2,256.96	5,412.54
+39.58	-2.57	-31.96
0.20%	-0.11%	-0.59%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.3349	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7583	Russian Rouble	61.0768
British Pound	0.789	Indian Rupee	67.4875	Singapore Dollar	1.4254
Canadian Dollar	1.3137	Japanese Yen	115.266	South Korean Won	1165.8
Chinese Yuan	6.9003	Malaysian Ringgit	4.4073	Swiss Franc	1.0135
Euro	0.94	New Zealand Dollar	1.3905	Taiwan Dollar	31.785
		Philippine Peso	49.69	Thailand Baht	35.59

Nation

Trump selects Tillerson for State, dismissing Russia ties

WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Donald Trump has selected Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson to lead the State Department, dismissing concerns about the businessman's close ties with Russia, two people close to Trump's transition said Monday night.

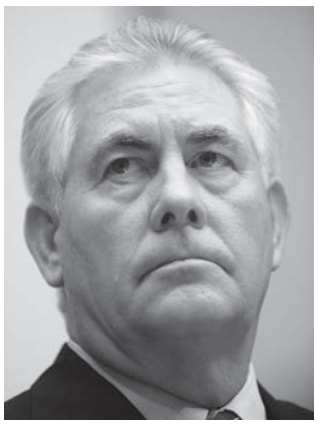
Trump's decision caps a lengthy process that often played out in public and exposed rifts within his transition team. It also sets Trump up for a potential fight with Congress over confirming Tillerson, who has connections with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Trump was set to announce Tillerson's nomination Tuesday morning. The people close to his transition team insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose the decision ahead of that announcement.

The president-elect had moved toward choosing Tillerson after a meeting Saturday, their second discussion in a week. Trump was said to be drawn to the idea of having an international businessman serve as the nation's top diplomat.

But the prospect of Tillerson's nomination sparked immediate concern on Capitol Hill, where lawmakers are already grappling with intelligence assessments suggesting Russia interfered with the U.S. presidential election to help Trump. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., wrote on Twitter that "being a 'friend of Vladimir'" was not an attribute he was seeking in a secretary of state.

In a weekend interview with "Fox News Sunday," Trump cast Tillerson's deep relations with Moscow as a selling point. As Exxon Mobil's head, he maintained close ties with Russia and was awarded by Putin with the Order of Friendship in 2013, an honor for a foreign citizen.



Rex Tillerson

Tillerson is the chairman and CEO of ExxonMobil. He was also the president of Boy Scouts of America and is a member of numerous trade groups such as the American Petroleum Institute. He was awarded the Order of Friendship by the Russian government.

Source: ExxonMobil
Graphic: TNS

AP

In this Aug. 30, 2011, file photo, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, right, and Rex Tillerson, ExxonMobil's chief executive smile during a signing ceremony in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, Russia.

"A great advantage is he knows many of the players, and he knows them well. He does massive deals in Russia. He does massive deals for the company," Trump said.

If confirmed by the Senate, Tillerson's test will be whether his corporate deal-making skills translate into the delicate world of international diplomacy. He would face immediate challenges in Syria, where a civil war rages on, and in China, given Trump's recent suggestions that he could take a more aggressive approach to dealing with Beijing.

A native of Wichita Falls, Texas, Tillerson came to Exxon Mobil Corp. as a production engineer straight out of the University of Texas at Austin in 1975 and never left. Groomed for an executive position, Tillerson came up in the rough-and-tumble world of oil production, holding posts in the company's central United States, Yemen and Russian operations.

Early in the company's efforts to gain access to Russian market, Tillerson cut a deal with state-owned Rosneft. The neglected post-Soviet company didn't have a tremendous amount to offer, but Exxon partnered with it "to be on the same side of the table," Tillerson said, according to "Private Empire," an investigative history of Exxon by reporter Steve Coll.

Tillerson, who became CEO on Jan. 1, 2006, is expected to retire in 2017. Tillerson's heir apparent, Darren Woods, was put in place a year ago, so there would be virtually no additional disruption to Exxon's succession plans if Tillerson were to become secretary of state.

Trump's choice to serve as secretary of state initially appeared to be a toss-up between former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Mitt Romney, the 2012 GOP presidential nominee. But Giuliani's prospects fell amid revelations of his overseas business ties. And Romney became the source of a fierce fight within the transition team, with some advisers strongly opposed to the prospect of tapping a Republican who was critical of Trump during the campaign.

Accused shooter had list of other black churches in his car

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—When he was arrested, the man accused of killing nine people during a Bible study in a Charleston church had a list of other area black churches in his car, law enforcement officials testified Monday.

At the time, Dylann Roof told FBI agents he was too "worn out" from the June 2015 shootings at Emanuel AME Church to pursue further shootings. But prosecutors trying him on dozens of federal charges presented evidence to jurors that Roof, armed with a handgun, ammunition, clothing and other supplies, could potentially have been planning more violence.

During roughly two hours on the stand, former State Law Enforcement Division agent Brittany Burke testified that names of a handful of other churches and their addresses were found on a handwritten list in a backpack in Roof's car.

Also on papers found in Roof's car were phone numbers for the Statehouse complex in Columbia, as well as the name of Denmark Vesey, one of the historic founders of Charleston's Emanuel AME.

Vesey led a failed 1822 slave rebellion that drove the church underground. After the plot was reported, Vesey was hanged and the church was burned. The church was rebuilt, but in 1834 all black churches were banned and members worshipped "underground" until 1865, when Emanuel AME Church was formally reorganized.

Burke is one of the state agents who processed evidence found in Roof's car when he was arrested after the shootings at the church known as Mother Emanuel. A jury began last week hearing testimony against Roof, 22, who is on trial on 33 federal charges, including hate crimes and obstruction of the practice of religion.

Roof has formally entered a not guilty plea to all the charges. But his attorneys have said he's willing to change that to guilty if prosecutors agree not to seek the death penalty against him.

Top GOP leaders back congressional probes of Russia hacking

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress' top Republicans on Monday endorsed investigations into the CIA's belief that Russia meddled in last month's election to help Donald Trump win, suggesting potential battles ahead with the incoming commander in chief over Moscow and U.S. intelligence.

Meanwhile, Trump said he would announce his choice for secretary of state Tuesday morning. He has chosen Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson, two people close to Trump's transition said Monday night, insisting on anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose the decision ahead of that announcement.

Congressional GOP leaders steered toward a path contrasting starkly with the president-elect's belittling dismissal of the CIA and his past praise for Russian President Vladimir Putin. "The Russians are not our friends," declared Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

The Senate's intelligence panel, led by Richard Burr, R-N.C., will conduct a bipartisan inquiry, according to McConnell, who also expressed support for a related probe by the Armed Services Committee, chaired by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. Though declining to say whether he believes Russia tried tilting the election toward Trump, McConnell said, "I hope that those who are going to be in positions of responsibility in the new administration share my view" about Moscow.

Shortly afterward, House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., released a statement backing an investigation the House Intelligence Committee has already started on cyber threats posed by foreign countries and extremist groups. He called any Russian intervention "especially problematic because under President Putin, Russia has been an aggressor that consistently undermines American interests."

Underscoring the possible collisions ahead between Trump and the men leading his party in Congress, McConnell and Ryan struck tones markedly more confrontational toward Russia than he has.

Trump on Sunday called the CIA's contention "ridiculous" and blamed the disclosures concerning its assessment on Democrats who he said were embarrassed over losing last month's election.

Recount efforts end: Trump wins in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania

By MARC LEVY and SCOTT BAUER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Presidential election recount efforts came to an end Monday in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, with both states certifying Republican Donald Trump as the winner in contests that helped put him over the top in the Electoral College stakes.

Trump's victory in Wisconsin was reaffirmed following a statewide vote recount that showed him defeating Democrat Hillary Clinton by nearly 23,000 votes. Meanwhile, a federal judge issued a stinging rejection of a Green Party-backed request for a presidential recount in Pennsylvania that complained the state's reliance on aging electronic voting machines made it highly vulnerable to hacking.

Green Party candidate Jill Stein successfully requested and paid for the Wisconsin recount while her attempts for similar statewide recounts in Pennsylvania and Michigan were blocked by the courts.

Stein got only about 1 percent of the vote in each of the three states, which Trump narrowly won over Clinton. Stein argued, without evidence, that voting machines in all three states were susceptible to hacking. All three states were crucial to Trump's victory, having last voted for a Republican for president in the 1980s.

The numbers barely budged in Wisconsin after nearly 3 million votes were recounted. Trump, a billionaire New York real estate mogul, picked up 131 votes and won by 22,748 votes. The final results changed just 0.06 percent.

Trump took to Twitter to celebrate the recount result.

"The final Wisconsin vote is in and guess what—we just picked up an additional 131 votes," he tweeted. "The Dems and Green Party can now rest. Scam!"

Stein said she was disappointed not all Wisconsin counties did hand recounts, although most did. She said the goal of the recount was never to change the outcome but to validate the vote and restore confidence in the system.

"The recount in Wisconsin raised a number of important election integrity issues that bear further assessment and serious action to ensure we have integrity and confidence in our electoral system," she said, without naming what they were.

Asia

China says Trump's Taiwan comments cause 'serious concern'

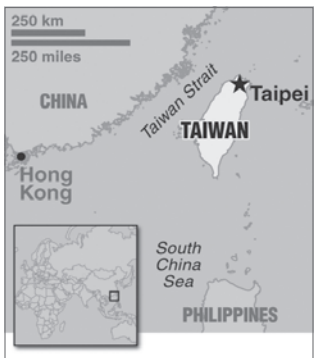
BEIJING (AP)—China's foreign minister warned that any moves to damage Beijing's core interests would be self-detrimental after U.S. President-elect Donald Trump said he could use the way in which America deals with Taiwan as a bargaining chip.

Wang Yi's comments late Monday came a day after Trump said in a television interview that he didn't feel "bound by a one-China policy." Washington, however, reaffirmed the U.S. government's commitment to the policy that means it maintains only unofficial relations with Taiwan, a self-governing island that Beijing considers its territory.

Since recognizing the People's Republic of China in 1979, the U.S. has adhered to the one-China policy, recognizing Beijing as the capital of China and maintaining only unofficial relations with Taiwan. American law, however, requires the U.S. to ensure that Taiwan has the means to defend itself and to treat all threats to the island as matters of serious concern.

AP

This combination of two photos shows U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, left, speaking during a "USA Thank You" tour event in Cincinatti Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016, and Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen, delivering a speech during National Day celebrations in Taipei, Taiwan, Monday, Oct. 10, 2016.



Taiwan

Population: 23.5 million
Head of state: President Tsai Ing-wen
Established: 1947
U.S. relations: In 1979, the U.S. shifted its diplomatic recognition of China from Taiwan to the People's Republic of China. The American Institute in Taiwan, a nonprofit funded largely by the U.S. government, handles diplomatic relations and other embassy functions.

Graphic: Tribune News Service
Source: CIA World Factbook, American Institute in Taiwan

China split from Taiwan amid civil war in 1949 and continues to regard the island as a breakaway province to be reunified with the mainland, by force if necessary.

"I can clearly say, whether it is the authorities of Tsai Ing-wen, or anyone else or any power in the world, if they attempt to harm this principle or China's core interests, the only result will be that they will smash their own foot while trying to lift a stone," Wang said after meeting with his Swiss counterpart Didier Burkhalter in Switzerland.

Earlier Monday, Geng Shuang, a spokesman for China's foreign ministry, said in Beijing that established policy is the "political foundation" of any diplomatic relationship between China and the U.S., and that any damage to it could render cooperation "out of the question."

"We urge the new U.S. leader and government to fully understand the seriousness of the Taiwan issue, and to continue to stick to the one-China policy," Geng said.

The comments by Wang and Geng are the strongest public condemnation China has made of Trump's criticisms of current American policy toward Taiwan.

Beijing was already angered by Trump's Dec. 2 phone call with Taiwanese President Tsai, the first time an American president or president-elect has publicly spoken to a Taiwanese leader in nearly four decades. China considers any reference to a separate Taiwanese head of state to be a grave insult.

Park's impeachment could split South Korea's ruling party

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's conservative ruling party is on the verge of a split following President Park Geun-hye's parliamentary impeachment last week.

Kim Moo-sung, leader of anti-Park lawmakers in the Saenuri Party, on Tuesday called Park loyalists her "political slaves" in an escalation of harsh rhetoric between rival factions in the largest political party in South Korea.

He told a televised conference that he and fellow lawmakers are considering leaving the party to create a new political group.

The feuding has intensified after dozens of Saenuri Party lawmakers aligned with a coalition of liberal opposition lawmakers to impeach Park on Friday because of a scandal involving her longtime, shadowy confidante.

Park supporters in the party criticized anti-Park members for betraying the embattled leader and told them to leave the party.

"It's really hard to tolerate the fact that some people, who had enjoyed all the benefits and political conveniences under the big 'Park Geun-hye' roof, took the initiative in the impeachment in a harsher manner than opposition parties," Choi Kyung Kwan, a senior party member who served as Park's finance minister, said on his Facebook page Monday.

But Kim said it was Park who betrayed the public and the party, describing her ties with her loyalists as similar to those of "gangsters."

Park's presidency will formally end if the Constitutional Court approves the impeachment. That would lead to an election to pick her successor.

If that happens, then the anti-Park lawmakers could try to establish a new political party involving outgoing U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and some liberal opposition politicians. Ban has not said if he would run for president, but opinion polls put him in second place behind Moon Jae-in, a former leader of the main opposition Democratic Party, to replace Park.

The scandal resolves around allegations that Park allowed her friend of 40 years, Choi Soon-sil, to manipulate government affairs and extort money from businesses. Choi and several top presidential and government officials have been indicted over their alleged roles with the scandal. Park has avoided prosecutors' questioning because she has immunity from prosecution while in office.

Blasphemy trial of Indonesian capital's governor begins

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The minority Christian governor of the Indonesian capital, who is on trial for alleged blasphemy, sobbed in court on Tuesday as he recalled the role of Muslim godparents in his childhood and said he would never intentionally insult Islam.

It was the first day of a trial that has challenged Indonesia's reputation for practicing a moderate form of Islam, shaken the government and exposed religious and racial fault-lines in the world's most populous Muslim nation. It was preceded in the past six weeks by massive protests in the capital Jakarta against the governor, with hardliners demanding his arrest.

Gov. Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama, an ally of President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, faces up to five years in prison if found guilty. He is the first ethnic Chinese governor of Jakarta and the first Christian in more than half a century.

"As a person who grew up in Islamic circles, is not possible for me to insult Islam," Ahok told the court in a hoarse voice.

He broke down in tears twice during his statement in which he talked about the affection of his godparents and remembered how he helped poor Indonesians to perform the Hajj pilgrimage when he was a district chief a decade ago.

The blasphemy controversy erupted in September when a video circulated online in which Ahok lightheartedly said that people were being deceived if they believed his detractors who asserted that the Quran prohibits Muslims having a non-Muslim leader. He is seeking a second term as governor in elections due February.

State Prosecutor Ali Mukartono told the court that Ahok insulted Islam and desecrated the Quran by using one of its verses to fool people and boost his chances of winning the Jakarta election.

Several hundred members of anti- and pro-Ahok groups gathered outside the court but were kept apart by police. The trial is being broadcast live. The proceedings could take two to three months.

A Nov. 4 protest against Ahok in Jakarta people turned violent, with one death and dozens of police and protesters injured. That and another major protest against him on Dec. 2, both organized by hardline Muslim groups, each attracted several hundred thousand people to the streets of the capital.

ASIAN BRIEFS

MH370 search ship leaves Australia for perhaps final time

PERTH, Australia (AP)—A lone survey vessel has left an Australian port for perhaps the final time to search for the Malaysian airliner that mysteriously crashed into the southern Indian Ocean two years ago, officials said Tuesday. The Dutch survey ship Fugro Equator left Fremantle on Monday night to continue the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 alone, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Darren Chester's office said. Whether the voyage is the ship's final monthlong deployment from Fremantle before the search was completed after more than two years would depend on the weather, Chester's office said. Chester thanked China for the services of a Chinese ship that in February joined the search of a 120,000-square-kilometer (46,000-square-mile) area where authorities

Pakistanis attack mosque of religious minority

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Thousands of Sunni Muslims marking the Prophet Muhammad's birthday on Monday attacked a mosque in Pakistan belonging to the Ahmadi religious minority, wounding several people, officials said. The mob hurled stones and bricks at the mosque before storming the building, said Mahmood Javed Bhatti, deputy commissioner of the Chakwal district outside Islamabad, adding that gunmen opened fire on Ahmadis during the melee. Rashid Ahmad, a local police official, said the mob set fire to part of the mosque, and that Ahmadis inside the building also hurled bricks, wounding some of the attackers. Another police official, Malik Nawaz, said security forces had dispersed the crowd, taken over the mosque and sealed it. He said Pakistani army and paramilitary reinforcements were being brought in to calm the situation.

Australia nursing home worker jailed for murdering residents

SYDNEY (AP)—A staff member at an Australian nursing home was sentenced on Tuesday to 40 years in prison for murdering two elderly residents and attempting to murder a third with insulin injections. Garry Steven Davis, 29, was convicted in the New South Wales state Supreme Court in September of injecting Gwen Fowler, 83, Ryan Kelly, 80, Audrey Manuel, 91 at the SummitCare nursing home in Wallsend in October 2013. Manuel survived the injection, but died later of unrelated causes. Justice Robert Allan Hulme on Tuesday ordered Davis to serve at least 30 years of the 40-year sentence before he can be considered for parole. Hulme said there was no reasonable doubt that Davis injected each victim with an intention to kill, but that his motive remained a mystery.

World

Nearly 7 years after quake, 50K in Haiti still in camps

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Nearly seven years ago, Adrienne St. Fume and her family fled their home as the earth shook and their city crumbled around them. They ended up in what was then a vacant lot overlooking a cluster of shops along a busy street in the Haitian capital—and they've been there ever since.

The mother of three said she figured their plywood shack would be temporary as they and the rest of Port-au-Prince recovered from the January 2010 earthquake. But St. Fume has yet to find a way out.

"It's been hard but we've tried our best to make a kind of life here," she said.

AP

In this Dec. 3, 2016 photo, Poleon Louis takes a break from dismantling his shelter in the Delmas tent camp set up nearly seven years ago for people displaced by the 2010 earthquake, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

At least 50,000 people like St. Fume remain in 31 settlement camps that emerged in Haiti in the days and weeks after the disaster. The number of people in these makeshift communities has declined 96 percent since the immediate aftermath, but those who remain are a stubborn reminder that this impoverished country has yet to fully recover from one of the worst natural disasters in history.

Authorities estimated 1.5 million people were living in over 1,500 camps in July 2010. The numbers dropped either because people were evicted by private property owners, raised enough money to rebuild homes, or received rental subsidies from the government and aid groups that got them back on their feet.

The International Organization for Migration, which is working with a final $7 million to resettle displaced people from three camps in Port-au-Prince, will soon be out of money for the effort, said Fabien Sambussy, the organization's operations chief in Haiti. Even if the agency had more cash, it would still be hard to find housing for people in a country where more than half the population survives on less than $2 a day and adequate housing is increasingly expensive.

And there are those who don't want to leave camps that in many cases morphed into crowded shantytowns.

"It's quite difficult to try to convince them that they are not at home after six years," said Sambussy, who said her agency has tried to clear out the camps in a humane way after forced evictions by people claiming ownership of the land became common during the first years after the quake.

St. Fume, who earns a meager living selling charcoal, said that unlike some of her neighbors, she would not oppose plans to move with her husband and their three children to subsidized housing for a year. They have struggled in the camp, where the mother said she dreams of living in a "decent house" where her children are safe.

"There's always a lot of worry here," she said on a recent morning.

In an area near the airport known as Tabarre, people in another camp said they have few prospects of permanent housing elsewhere and reject authorities' proposals to move them into one-year rentals.

"We took over this land. This place is home now and we want it to be considered our own village," said Wilson Mathieu, a grandfather who built a concrete general store in the dusty camp filled with roadside vendors and tiny lottery shops.

Suspect in Egypt chapel bombing had 2014 run-in with police

CAIRO (AP)—The young man suspected of blowing himself up inside a Cairo chapel during Sunday Mass, killing at least 25 people, had been arrested and beaten by police two years ago after allegedly taking part in an Islamist demonstration, his lawyer said Monday.

If independently confirmed, Mahmoud Shafiq Mohammed Mustafa would be the latest Egyptian to be radicalized after being subjected to police abuse, a practice that was common for decades and has become rampant after a crackdown on dissent following the military's 2013 ouster of an Islamist president.

Speaking after a state funeral for the victims, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi said the suspect detonated a belt of explosives inside a chapel adjacent to St. Mark's Cathedral, seat of Egypt's ancient Coptic Orthodox Church. The over 100-year-old chapel was packed with worshippers.

The dead included more than 20 women and children. Forty-nine others were injured, according to the latest figures from the Health Ministry.

Mahmoud Hassan, one of Musafa's lawyers, said his client, who was 16 at the time of his arrest, was tortured until he confessed to the possession of weapons and explosions. He also faced charges of membership in an "illegal organization," Egyptian parlance for the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamist group of which former President Mohammed Morsi was a senior official.

The Interior Ministry said late Monday that Mustafa belonged to a terrorist cell founded by an Egyptian doctor and funded by Muslim Brotherhood leaders living in exile in Qatar, long accused by Egypt of supporting militants groups. It said the cell was tasked with staging attacks that would lead to sectarian Muslim-Christian strife.

After his arrest, Musafa spent nearly two months in detention before being released on bail. A court later convicted him in absentia, according to the lawyer. Traumatized by the torture, he told his lawyer not to appeal, fearing he would be abused again if detained.

A police photo of Mustafa and a friend arrested on the same day showed the pair, clearly in their teens, with bleeding noses and bruised faces. Placed atop a coffee table in front of them was a rifle, ammunition and what appeared to be a homemade bomb.

Hassan insisted that Mustafa was not a member of the Brotherhood, but the young Egyptian student from the oasis province of Fayoum appears to have been radicalized by his experience in detention, a danger many Egyptian rights activists warn the government against. The activists seek freedom for anyone not involved in acts of violence.

Two local news websites on Monday quoted Mustafa's mother as saying he had not been home in two years.

Mosul doctors struggle to save civilians on Iraq front line

MOSUL, Iraq (AP)—A crowd of men rushed through the narrow hallway of Mosul's al-Zahra clinic carrying a slight 10-year-old boy. Yousef Oday's face was covered in blood.

A team of doctors quickly gathered around his cot. "What happened to you?" one of the men asked.

"I have no idea. I was bleeding on one side," the boy said. He didn't make another sound, lying motionless as a doctor put an IV into his arm. His eyes were wide and pupils dilated.

Oday was hit in the side of his head with a stray bullet as he was waiting in line to gather water from a well in eastern Mosul. Two other young men waiting with him were also shot. Dr. Ahmed Hussam methodically tended to Oday's wounds. "He's in shock," he explained.

While Iraqi forces announce daily advances, the city's civilians continue to be killed and maimed by indirect fire, clashes and counterattacks.

The Mosul front line in the city's east is being pushed forward in two columns: one led by the Iraqi army's 9th Division and the other by the special forces. In some places, Iraqi forces are just over two kilometers (1.2 miles) from the Tigris River that splits the city. But along the main highway that cuts through the center of Mosul's eastern half, Iraqi forces have made hardly any advances at all.

The jagged edge leaves troops vulnerable to counterattacks, but also thousands of civilians exposed to ongoing clashes as the operation slowly grinds forward.

Oday was shot in al-Zahra, a neighborhood declared liberated nearly a month ago. Since then, Iraqi forces have captured nearly half a dozen other neighborhoods and districts, but have not managed to completely secure al-Zahra so that aid groups and supply trucks can access the hundreds of civilians still living there.

"This is nothing," whispered one of the nurses in the emergency room where Oday was being treated. "We have people who come in here without any arms or legs," she said, asking to only be identified by her first name, Malkiya, out of concern for her safety.

Syria rebels retreat in Aleppo in 'terrifying' collapse

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian rebels retreated from former strongholds in eastern Aleppo in a "terrifying" collapse Monday, holding onto a small sliver of territory packed with fighters and thousands of civilians as government troops pressed on with their rapid advance.

The Syrian military said it had gained control of 99 percent of the former opposition enclave in eastern Aleppo, signaling an impending end to the rebels' four-year hold over parts of the city as the final hours of battle played out.

"The situation is very, very critical," said Ibrahim al-Haj of the Syrian Civil Defense, volunteer first responders who operate in rebel-held areas. He said he was seeking shelter for himself and his family, fearing clashes or capture by the government.

Retaking Aleppo, which has been divided between rebel- and government-controlled zones since 2012, would be President Bashar Assad's biggest victory yet in the country's civil war. But it does not end the conflict: Significant parts of Syria are still outside government control and huge swaths of the country are a devastated waste-land. More than a quarter of a million people have been killed.

On Sunday, the Islamic State group re-occupied the ancient town of Palmyra, taking advantage of the Syrian army and its Russian backers' preoccupation with the fighting in Aleppo. On Monday, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said IS fighters were on the verge of imposing a siege on a nearby army base known as T4.

The IS recapture of Palmyra nine months after it was retaken by Syrian government and Russian troops led to mutual recriminations between Western officials and Moscow.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault accused Russia of "pretending to fight terrorism" while it concentrated on Aleppo, leaving room for the militants to retake Palmyra. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov lashed back, accusing the U.S.-led coalition of orchestrating the Palmyra takeover "in order to give a respite to the bandits sitting in eastern Aleppo."

Focus

AP Interview:

Gorbachev says US was short-sighted on Soviets

MOSCOW (AP)—As the Soviet Union was breaking up 25 years ago, Mikhail Gorbachev expected the United States and its Western allies to provide vital aid. The former Soviet president thinks their failure to offer significant help wasted a chance to build a safer world and resulted from short-sighted gloating at a Cold War rival's demise.

In a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press, the 85-year-old Gorbachev voiced hope that Russia and the United States would do better and ease current tensions during Donald Trump's presidency.

"The relations between us are so important and concern everyone else, so we must take the interests of others into account," said the leader credited with helping to end the Cold War.

Gorbachev said he had expected Hillary Clinton to win the U.S. presidential race and was surprised by Trump's victory. He declined to offer an assessment of Trump, saying it remains to be seen what policies the new U.S. administration will pursue.

"He has little political experience, but, maybe, it's good," he said.

Gorbachev walked slowly with a cane, but his smile was as captivating as always, his wits as sharp as usual and his reactions quick during the rare, hour-long interview at his foundation's office in Moscow.

Gorbachev, who helped end the Cold War by launching sweeping liberal reforms, cutting nuclear stockpiles and allowing Soviet bloc nations in Central and Eastern Europe to break free from Moscow's diktat, spoke bitterly about the West's failure to embrace a new era of friendly cooperation he said his policy of "perestroika" offered.

"They were rubbing their hands, saying, 'How nice! We had been trying to do something about the Soviet Union for decades, and it ate itself up!'" Gorbachev said.

He blasted what he described as Western "triumphalism," saying it remains a key factor in tensions between Russia and the West.

Ties between Russia and the West are worse than they have been at any time since the Cold War following Moscow's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula in March 2014 and its support for a pro-Russian separatist insurgency in eastern Ukraine. The U.S. and the European Union responded with several rounds of economic sanctions, which along with low oil prices have driven Russia's economy into recession.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has accused the U.S. of trying to isolate and weaken the nation, pointing to the deployment of NATO forces near Russia's borders as a sign of hostile intentions. The war in Syria, where Russia has waged an air campaign in support of the President Bashar Assad, has added to the tensions.

Gorbachev said Russian and U.S. leaders must sit down for talks and "stay at the table until they reach agreement."

"The world needs Russia and the United States to cooperate," Gorbachev said. "Together, they could lead the world ... to a new path."

He defended Russia's action to annex Crimea, pointing out that Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev arbitrarily transferred Crimea from Russian to Ukrainian administrative control in 1954, a decision that mattered little until the Soviet collapse.

He also noted that the annexation followed a popular vote in which the residents of the Black Sea peninsula overwhelmingly backed joining Russia.

"When people say yes, a decision must be made," he said.

The Crimean referendum was held after Russian troops flooded the peninsula, and the West has rejected the vote's outcome due to the troops' presence.

While he squarely backs Putin on the Ukrainian crisis, Gorbachev, who was born in southern Russia, is full of admiration for Ukrainian culture. After an interview, he sang a Ukrainian song he learned from his mother, who was Ukrainian.

Gorbachev also praised outgoing U.S. President Barack Obama. But he deplored what he described as a misguided policy toward Russia pursued by the U.S. and its allies both during his presidency and now.

"They have been badgering Russia with accusations and blaming it for everything," Gorbachev said. "And now, there is a backlash to that in Russia. Russia wants to have friendly ties with America, but it's difficult to do that when Russia sees that it's being cheated."

Gorbachev pointed to the productive relationship he built with U.S. President Ronald Reagan during the 1980s and the arms control agreements they reached despite sharp ideological differences.

"We accomplished a lot," he said. "We could talk openly, in a real partner-like way. It's necessary to take that approach again."

Asked his opinion of Putin's leadership, Gorbachev said he sees him as a "worthy president," even though he has criticized some of his policies.

In the past, Gorbachev assailed the Kremlin for a crackdown on freedom of speech and rigid political controls. He also was critical of Putin's return to the presidency in 2012 after term limits forced him to switch to the premier's seat for four years.

"I almost fully supported him first, and then I began to voice criticism," Gorbachev said of Putin. "I can't renounce my views."

He added, however, that he approved of Putin's recent state-of-the-nation address. The speech sent a conciliatory message to the West, and some observers also saw signs that the Kremlin may ease some of its rigid domestic policies.

"It was different from his previous speeches," Gorbachev said. "The speech showed that he's strongly worried."

Gorbachev has received global accolades for his policy of "perestroika," which eased government economic controls, and his role in ending the Cold War. At home, he has faced stinging criticism. Many held him responsible, and still do, for economic hardships, political turmoil and the loss of superpower status resulting from the Soviet Union's collapse.

Gorbachev's voice trembled with emotion as he recalled the waning days of the Soviet Union, when his arch-foe, Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, and leaders of other Soviet republics plotted his ouster while pretending to support his efforts to negotiate a treaty that would give the republics broader powers.

"Yeltsin took part in that and supported it, but he was conspiring behind my back how to get rid of Gorbachev," he said, alleging that a hunger for power motivated the Russian leader. "Russia was spearheading the Soviet breakup."

Leaders of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, meeting secretly at a government residence in a forest in Belarus, signed an agreement on Dec. 8, 1991, pronouncing the Soviet Union dead and setting up the Commonwealth of Independent States. The move caught both Gorbachev and the West by surprise. Two weeks later, other ex-Soviet nations joined the newly-created CIS.

Driven into a corner, Gorbachev stepped down on Christmas Day 1991. Hours later, Yeltsin and his lieutenants took over his office in the Kremlin, giving him no time to pack his personal belongings in a calculated gesture of humiliation.

Amid the Soviet meltdown, loyalties of the 4 million-strong Soviet army and the massive KGB apparatus were split between the central authorities and the newly-assertive governments of Russia and other republics who were proclaiming their independence.

Asked if he considered using force to prevent the Soviet breakup, Gorbachev said launching a violent domestic conflict in a nuclear superpower was never an option for him.

"The country was loaded to the brim with weapons," he said. "And it would immediately have pushed the country into a civil war."

AP

In this photo taken Friday, Dec. 9, 2016 photo former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev speaks to the Associated Press during an interview at his foundation's headquarters in Moscow, Russia. Gorbachev said the West has wasted a chance to build a safer world after the Cold War while the U.S. has gloated at the Soviet Union's demise.

Excerpts from AP interview with Mikhail Gorbachev

MOSCOW (AP)—Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev spoke to The Associated Press about the collapse of the Soviet Union 25 years ago, Russia's relations with the West, Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. presidential election, Russia's domestic problems and President Vladimir Putin's leadership. Here are some excerpts from the rare, hour-long interview:

■ ON THE SOVIET COLLAPSE:

"Russia was spearheading the Soviet breakup. (Russian President Boris) Yeltsin was taking part in that (talks on revamping the Soviet Union) and supported it, but he was conspiring behind my back how to get rid of Gorbachev and the (Soviet) Union."

"Yeltsin was primarily responsible for that along with Russia's leadership, they were striving for power. It's bad when people are ill with that desire to grab power, to grab turf. It's impossible to build a democratic society with such people."

■ ON HIS REFUSAL TO USE FORCE TO PREVENT THE SOVIET BREAKUP

"The country was loaded to the brim with weapons. And it would immediately have pushed the country into a civil war."

■ ON THE WEST'S FAILURE TO PROVIDE AID TO HELP PREVENT THE SOVIET BREAKUP:

"They were rubbing their hands in joy: the (Soviet) Union that had been a concern for decades ate up itself!"

■ ON WESTERN POLICY TOWARD RUSSIA:

"They have been badgering Russia with accusations and blaming it for everything. And now there is a backlash to that in Russia. Russia wants to have friendly ties with America, but it's difficult to do that when Russia sees that it's being cheated."

■ ON THE NEED TO MEND U.S.-RUSSIAN TIES:

"It's necessary that our leaders meet to discuss how we should develop relations. The relations between us are so important and concern everyone else, so we must take the interests of others into account.

"The world needs Russia and the United States to cooperate. Together, they could lead the world ... to a new path.

"If we don't cooperate, if we don't pull our efforts together and talk to each other, everyone will build up arms. If there is a rifle on the wall in the first act of a play, it will go off in the end."

■ ON U.S. PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD TRUMP:

"He has little political experience, but, may be, it's good."

■ ON RUSSIA'S PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN:

"I think he's a worthy president, he has proven his worth. He is a strong person."

"I almost fully supported him first, and then I began to voice criticism. I can't renounce my views, and he wants something else."

Good Housekeeping

Living Smart: How do I get rid of ants?

TNS

Experts recommend using gel bait, traps or insect sprays to eliminate ants in your home, or call a professional for serious infestations.

By TOM MOOR
ANGIE'S LIST

Although ants generally don't cause harm to people—they don't carry disease, like some other pests—an infestation can be a major nuisance.

"Ants can be extremely persistent creatures, seemingly coming from nowhere and can be difficult to entirely get rid of," says Kelly Garvin of Greenix Pest Control in Dublin, Ohio.

Fortunately, DIY and professional pest removal options are available.

REASONS FOR ANT INFESTATION

Ants typically invade your home for one reason: food. Most feed on sugary or greasy items.

Sugar ants—also called odorous house ants—are one of the most common ant invaders and among the first pests to show up in the spring. They're about one-eighth of an inch or smaller and are attracted to food sources.

The common pavement ant, which is brown to black and about 1/10th of an inch long, will set up colonies near driveways or patios and then send out scouts to search for food in your home. They eat meat, grease, seeds, dead or live insects, and can sting and bite if disturbed.

Carpenter ants, which are black and up to half an inch long, look for protein rather than sugar, and will eat through wood to find nesting locations. Small piles of wood shavings called "frass" found under windows or door frames are signs of carpenter ants.

Moisture ants are larger—about 4 to 4.5 mm long—and are usually an indication of excessive water somewhere. Either can be a problem in bathrooms.

Knowing what type of ant you're dealing with can help you prevent or combat an infestation.

KEEPING ANTS OUT

The first step to prevent an ant infestation: clean house. If you see scout ants in your home, kill them immediately. Make sure you don't leave any food out and keep all kitchen surfaces clean.

If you continue to see ants, make sure you've closed off possible entry points, including sealing small cracks in your walls or under windows. Start by caulking potential entry points, such as window casings.

Next, you can lay down barriers like salt or talc under doors to turn ants away, or apply scents such as vinegar, peppermint oil or cinnamon. Bear in mind, however, that anything you put down will also be of interest to pets and children, so be careful what you use.

DIY METHODS FOR ANT REMOVAL

If ant explorers have morphed into a full-on colony, then you need a plan.

Start with soap and water. This will not only kill chemical trails, but any ants it touches. Add citrus to the water to increase its effectiveness.

You can also purchase pest sprays and baited ant traps from local grocery and hardware stores. These use a mixture of sugars and ant poison, such as boric acid to attract, trap and kill ants. Proceed with caution when using poison.

Bear in mind, too, that these traps won't work on protein-feeders like carpenter ants, since the sweetness won't interest them.

In addition to trapping ants inside, you can also spray around the exterior of the home where the house meets the pavement or ground to prevent more ants from infiltrating, says David Anderson of Eastside Exterminators in Woodinville, Washington.

Garvin recommends spraying problem areas with a mixture of Windex, vinegar and water. She says spreading Diatomaceous Earth in carpeted areas around the bathroom is a safe and natural way to kill ants because it's a food source.

"The Windex or vinegar is really a quick fix and not really that effective, but it will remove the immediate ants and wipe away their pheromone scent they use to follow trails," Garvin says.

Dan Miles, owner of Total Exterminating in Indianapolis, suggests spraying all cracks around the baseboards and the base of the toilet if the infestation is in the bathroom.

HIRE A PEST CONTROL PROFESSIONAL

Large-scale infestations require assistance from a pest control professional.

Pros address ant problems by locating the colony itself; typically this starts by laying bait traps, which contain poisoned food taken back to the nest. Once found, exterminators can use a variety of techniques including chemical sprays to totally eliminate the ants in your home.

In the case of carpenter ants, early detection is critical. Left unchecked, they can cause significant damage to your home. A pest control professional may need to drill small holes in your wall to make sure the entire colony has been eliminated, and will often book a follow-up visit to make sure problems don't recur.

Additional reporting by Angie's List Contributor Doug Bonderud

(Tom Moor is a reporter at Angie's List, a trusted provider of local consumer reviews and an online marketplace of services from top-rated providers.)

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Polynesian Drumsticks

A quick marinade adds a sweet and tangy glaze to grilled skinless drumsticks—a favorite with everyone in the family.

1 can (8 ounces) crushed pineapple in unsweetened pineapple juice

1/4 cup packed brown sugar

3 tablespoons soy sauce

1 tablespoon grated, peeled fresh ginger

1 garlic clove, crushed with garlic press

12 chicken drumsticks (about 4 pounds), skin removed

1. In blender, puree pineapple with its juice and remaining ingredients except drumsticks. Spoon 1/2 cup pineapple mixture into large self-sealing plastic bag; reserve remaining pineapple mixture for grilling. Add drumsticks to bag, turning to coat. Let stand at room temperature 15 minutes.

2. Remove drumsticks from bag; discard bag with marinade. Place drumsticks on grill over medium heat and cook 15 minutes, turning over once. Cook drumsticks 10 to 15 minutes longer, or until drumsticks are golden and juices run clear when thickest part is pierced with tip of knife, brushing twice with reserved pineapple mixture and turning occasionally. Makes 4 servings.

* Each serving: About 260 calories, 38g protein, 8g carbohydrate, 8g total fat (2g saturated), 0g fiber, 123mg cholesterol, 385mg sodium.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipes/.

Life & Style

'La La Land' waltzes off with most Golden Globe nominations

By JAKE COYLE,
AP FILM WRITER

The Golden Globes nominations had their usual quirks. "Deadpool," really? But the nominees did little to disrupt the dominant trends of this year's award season: that "La La Land" and "Moonlight" have separated themselves from a pack of richly diverse contenders.

"La La Land," Damien Chazelle's infectious Los Angeles musical, sang and danced its way to a leading seven Golden Globes nominations, including best picture musical or comedy, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced Monday in Los Angeles . Barry Jenkins' lyrical three-part coming-of-age tale "Moonlight" trailed closely with six nods, including best drama.

Those two films have taken just about everyone top honor so far in Hollywood's awards season, with Kenneth Lonergan's tender, grief-filled New England drama "Manchester by the Sea"—which scored five nominations Monday, including best drama and best actor for Casey Affleck—consistently in the running, too.

But "La La Land," with its show-stopping musical numbers and love affair with old Hollywood musicals, remains widely seen as the Academy Awards favorite. After setting records in its limited release over the weekend and winning a leading eight Critics' Choice Awards on Sunday , it may be just beginning to flex its musical muscle.

"What a way to start a Monday," said "La La Land" star Emma Stone.

Stone and her co-star, Ryan Gosling, were nominated for their lead performances, as was the film's directing, screenplay, score and original song. "Moonlight," spread across three chapters of a young man's life in Miami, earned nods for Jenkins' directing and script, supporting actor favorite Mahershala Ali and supporting actress Naomie Harris.

"When you see that the HFPA comes back with six nominations you know they saw the work and the love put into the film," Jenkins said by phone. "It fills my heart."

There were, as usual, eyebrow-raising picks by the HFPA, a group of mostly freelance journalists known for playing favorites and packing its lively banquet with stars. While Martin Scorsese's "Silence" and Clint Eastwood's "Sully" both went empty-handed, the R-rated superhero romp "Deadpool" scored two nominations, including best film, comedy or musical.

"As we speak, the entire 'Deadpool' team is engaged in a grotesque, early morning tickle-fight," tweeted the film's star, Ryan Reynolds, who was also nominated.

Also out of leftfield were the supporting actor nod for Jonah Hill in the poorly reviewed "War Dogs" and the unexpected nomination for the unheralded

AP

This image released by Lionsgate shows Ryan Gosling, left, and Emma Stone in a scene from, "La La Land."

Aaron Taylor-Johnson in Tom Ford's "Nocturnal Animals."

But those choices did nothing to dislodge the season's front-runners, nor did it alter another maxim gaining steam: this year's awards season won't be nearly so white as last year's.

Along with "Moonlight," nominations were heaped on Denzel Washington's August Wilson adaptation "Fences" (including acting nods for Washington and Viola Davis), the interracial marriage drama "Loving" (leads Ruth Negga and Joel Edgerton were each nominated) and the inspirational NASA drama about African-American mathematicians "Hidden Figures" (for which Octavia Spencer was nominated).

Those nominations, all of them expected, confirm what has already solidified as a notably more diverse Oscar field. The same was true on the television side, where a rush of newcomers joined mainstays like "Transparent" and "Veep."

"The People v. O.J. Simpson" continued its awards success with five nominations, including best limited series and nods for stars Sarah Paulson, Courtney B. Vance, Sterling K. Brown and John Travolta. But the TV categories were also populated by more recent acclaimed shows not eligible for September's Emmy Awards, including "The Night Of," ''Westworld," ''Atlanta," ''This Is Us" and "Insecure." HBO led the networks with 14 nominations.

Whether the typically carefree Globes, to be hosted by Jimmy Fallon, will be as bubbly as usual will be a question going into the ceremony. The Jan. 8 show comes less than two weeks before president-elect Donald Trump's inauguration, and some were already conflating the two.

"Huge thanks to the Hollywood Foreign Press Association and the Russian hackers that made our nominations possible," joked "Veep" star Julia Louis-Dreyfus on her eighth Globe nod.

The Weinstein Co.'s "Lion," about an Indian boy separated from his family, had an especially good morning. The film earned four nods, including best drama and acting nominations for Dev Patel and Nicole Kidman.

Mel Gibson, long a divisive, controversial figure in Hollywood, also had reason to celebrate. His World War II drama "Hacksaw Ridge" landed three nominations, including best drama, best director and best actor in a drama for Andrew Garfield.

David Mackenzie's West Texas heist thriller "Hell or High Water," with Jeff Bridges, earned three nods including best drama.

The best actress race is one of the year's most competitive, though it's so far been dominated by "Elle" star Isabelle Huppert. In drama, she was nominated along with Amy Adams ("Arrival"), Natalie Portman ("Jackie"), Jessica Chastain ("Miss Sloane") and Negga.

Along with "La La Land," the best picture, comedy or musical, nominees were the Annette Bening-led family drama "20th Century Women," the 1980s Dublin music-laced coming-of-age comedy "Sing Street" and "Florence Foster Jenkins."

For the latter, Meryl Streep landed her 30th nomination. The film, about a Manhattan heiress' quixotic dreams of singing opera, was one of the morning's most unlikely winners, scoring four nominations including nods for Hugh Grant and Simon Helberg. Streep, an eight-time winner, will also be the recipient of the Cecil B. DeMille Award for career achievement.

NOMINEES' LIST

List of nominees for the 74th annual Golden Globe Awards, announced Monday in Beverly Hills, California:

MOTION PICTURES

■ Picture, Drama: "Hacksaw Ridge," ''Hell or High Water," ''Lion," ''Manchester by the Sea," ''Moonlight."

■ Picture, Musical or Comedy: "20th Century Women," ''Deadpool," ''Florence Foster Jenkins," ''La La Land," Sing Street."

■ Actor, Drama: Casey Affleck, "Manchester by the Sea"; Joel Edgerton, "Loving"; Andrew Garfield, "Hacksaw Ridge"; Viggo Mortensen, "Captain Fantastic"; Denzel Washington, "Fences."

■ Actress, Drama: Amy Adams, "Arrival"; Jessica Chastain, "Miss Sloane"; Isabelle Huppert, "Elle"; Ruth Negga, "Loving"; Natalie Portman, "Jackie."

■ Director: Damien Chazelle, "La La Land"; Tom Ford, "Nocturnal Animals"; Mel Gibson, "Hacksaw Ridge"; Barry Jenkins, "Moonlight"; Kenneth Lonergan, "Manchester by the Sea."

■ Actor, Musical or Comedy: Colin Farrell, "The Lobster"; Ryan Gosling, "La La Land"; Hugh Grant, "Florence Foster Jenkins"; Jonah Hill, "War Dogs"; Ryan Reynolds, "Deadpool."

■ Actress, Musical or Comedy: Annette Bening, "20th Century Women"; Lily Collins, "Rules Don't Apply"; Hailee Steinfeld, "The Edge of Seventeen"; Emma Stone, "La La Land"; Meryl Streep, " Florence Foster Jenkins."

■ Supporting Actor: Mahershala Ali, "Moonlight"; Jeff Bridges, "Hell or High Water"; Simon Helberg," Florence Foster Jenkins"; Dev Patel, "Lion"; Aaron Taylor-Johnson, "Nocturnal Animals."

■ Supporting Actress, Motion Picture: Viola Davis, "Fences"; Naomie Harris, "Moonlight"; Nicole Kidman, "Lion"; Octavia Spencer, "Hidden Figures"; Michelle Williams, "Manchester by the Sea."

■ Foreign Language: "Divines," ''Elle," ''Neruda," ''The Salesman," ''Toni Erdmann."

■ Animated Film: "Kubo and the Two Strings," ''Moana," ''My Life as a Zucchini," ''Sing," ''Zootopia."

■ Screenplay: Damien Chazelle, "La La Land"; Tom Ford, "Nocturnal Animals"; Barry Jenkins, "Moonlight"; Kenneth Lonergan, "Manchester by the Sea"; Taylor Sheridan, "Hell or High Water."

■ Original Score: Nicholas Britell, "Moonlight"; Justin Hurwitz, "La La Land"; Johann Johannsson, "Arrival"; Dustin O'Halloran, Hauschka, "Lion"; Hans Zimmer, Pharrell Williams, Benjamin Wallfisch, "Hidden Figures."

■ Original Song: "Can't Stop the Feeling!", "Trolls"; "City of Stars," ''La La Land"; "Faith," ''Sing"; "Gold," ''Gold"; "How Far I'll Go," ''Moana."

TELEVISION:

■ Series, Drama: "The Crown," ''Game of Thrones," ''Stranger Things," ''This Is Us," ''Westworld."

■ Actress, Drama: Caitriona Balfe, "Outlander"; Claire Foy, "The Crown"; Keri Russell, "The Americans"; Winona Ryder, "Stranger Things"; Evan Rachel Wood, "Westworld."

■ Actor, Drama: Rami Malek, "Mr. Robot"; Bob Odenkirk, "Better Call Saul"; Matthew Rhys, "The Americans"; Liev Schreiber, "Ray Donovan"; Billie Bob Thornton, "Goliath."

■ Actor, Limited Series or Movie: Riz Ahmed, "The Night Of"; Bryan Cranston, "All the Way"; Tom Hiddleston," The Night Manager"; John Turturro, "The Night Of"; Courtney B. Vance, "The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story."

■ Series, Musical or Comedy: "Atlanta," ''black-ish," ''Mozart in the Jungle," ''Transparent," ''Veep."

■ Supporting Actor, Series, Limited Series or Movie: Sterling K. Brown, "The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story"; Hugh Laurie, "The Night Manager"; John Lithgow, "The Crown"; Christian Slater, "Mr. Robot"; John Travolta, "The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story."

■ Actress, Limited Series or Movie: Felicity Huffman, "American Crime"; Riley Keough, "The Girlfriend Experience"; Sarah Paulson, "The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story"; Charlotte Rampling, "London Spy"; Kerry Washington, "Confirmation."

■ Supporting Actress, Series, Limited Series or Movie: Olivia Colman, "The Night Manager"; Lena Headey, "Game of Thrones"; Chrissy Metz, "This Is Us"; Mandy Moore, "This Is Us"; Thandie Newton, "Westworld."

■ Limited Series or Movie: "American Crime," ''The Dresser," ''The Night Manager," ''The Night Of," ''The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story."

■ Actress, Musical or Comedy: Rachel Bloom, "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend"; Julia Louis-Dreyfus, "Veep"; Sarah Jessica Parker, "Divorce"; Issa Rae, "Insecure"; Gina Rodriguez, "Jane the Virgin"; Tracee Ellis Ross, "black-ish."

■ Actor, Musical or Comedy: Anthony Anderson, "black-ish"; Gael Garcia Bernal, "Mozart in the Jungle"; Donald Glover, "Atlanta"; Nick Nolte, "Graves"; Jeffrey Tambor, "Transparent."

■ Meryl Streep will be honored with the Cecil B. DeMille Award.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

John Legend gets the 'Green Light' for NBA All-Star gig

NEW YORK (AP)—John Legend will return to the NBA All-Star weekend as the game's halftime performer, it was announced Monday. The Grammy- and Oscar-winning singer-songwriter performed the national anthem at the annual showcase in Houston in 2013. He was a halftime performer in Phoenix in 2009. The All-Star game is scheduled Feb. 19 in New Orleans. It was moved from Charlotte, North Carolina, because of a state law that requires transgender people to use bathrooms that correspond to their birth gender in public buildings. Legend released his fifth album, "Darkness and Light," this month. The All-Star game will air live on TNT.

Hachette announces departures of 2 executives

NEW YORK (AP)—A longtime Hachette Book Group executive who has worked with Jon Stewart, Amy Sedaris and many other top-selling authors is stepping down in January. Hachette announced Monday that Jamie Raab, president and publisher of the Grand Central Publishing division, is leaving after 30 years with the company. Raab said in a statement that she had had a "terrific career," but that it was time to step down. Hachette also announced that Deb Futter, head of the Twelve imprint, is leaving in January. Futter's authors included Scott Turow, Steve Martin and Barbara Ehrenreich. Replacements for Raab and Futter have not yet been determined, according to Hachette.

Blake Shelton helps out fan who crashed bike, missed show

SOMERS, N.Y. (AP)—Country star Blake Shelton is giving two free tickets to a fan who missed an October show after being injured in a motorcycle crash. Jonathan Daniels told Shelton of his plight with a post on Shelton's Facebook page. Daniels wrote that he had planned to take his girlfriend to the show to celebrate her birthday, but the accident happened the day after he bought tickets. He says he couldn't make the show after spending 15 days in a hospital after suffering two collapsed lungs, brain bleeding and a lacerated liver, kidney and spleen. The post was heavily shared. Shelton responded in a video , saying the couple could have two tickets to the show of their choice before adding, "motorcycles are very dangerous."

David Letterman volunteers for Habitat for Humanity

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Retired "Late Show" host David Letterman went to New Orleans to help build a house for someone needing a boost.

Volunteer Kate O'Leary sent WWL-TV a selfie of herself and the heavily bearded Letterman in front of a house being built by the New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity.

O'Leary said, "He likes to help out with projects like that, and keep it on the down low."

The nonprofit group's chief advancement officer, Marguerite Oestreicher, confirmed that Letterman worked on construction Friday and Saturday, and that O'Leary is a volunteer.

She says Letterman is "just like any individual who volunteers from their heart and gives their time to help families in need."

Letterman retired in May after nearly 25 years as host of the CBS talk show.

Publisher: Former Obama White House aide writing memoir

NEW YORK (AP)—A former White House aide who is now the chief operating officer of a Brooklyn-based media company is working on an upbeat, but "warts and all" book about her years in the Obama administration.

Twelve, an imprint of Hachette Book Group, told The Associated Press on Monday that Alyssa Mastromonaco had a deal for "Who Thought This Was Good Idea: And Other Questions You Should Have Answers to When You Work in the White House?" The publisher says the memoir will bring the reader into Obama's inner circle, offering an "admiring" account of the president, while showing the determination and resilience needed to get the job done.

Mastromonaco, 40, has worked with Obama in a variety jobs, dating to his time as a state senator from Illinois. She served as White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations from 2011-2014, and joined Vice Media the following year. Her book is scheduled for March 21.

"This is a warts-and-all account of Alyssa's time at the White House, putting out fires, meeting with world leaders and occasionally winning elections," according to Twelve's announcement.

"Less political diatribe than a gossip session with an older sister—if that sibling worked for the leader of the free world—Mastromonaco delves into funny stories that never saw the light of day, including meeting the Queen of England in jeans, tussling with President Karzai's guards, and having a bad case of IBS while visiting the Holy See at the Vatican."

LeBron James producing Muhammad Ali documentary for HBO

LOS ANGELES (AP)—King James is set to tell the story of The Greatest.

Cleveland Cavaliers star LeBron James will be the executive producer of an HBO documentary on Muhammad Ali, who died earlier this year. The as-yet-untitled film will be directed by Antoine Fuqua, who also helmed the boxing drama "Southpaw" and "Training Day." Fuqua will also produce.

James has been a longtime admirer of Ali, the boxing great and social activist. James recently pledged a $2.5 donation to a new exhibit on Ali at the Smithsonian Institution.

"It's tough to put into words how much it means to me to be a part of this project honoring the legacy and telling the extremely important story of the great Muhammad Ali," he said. "He transcended sports and used his platform to empower people, which paved the way for all athletes and people of every race and gender that came after him, myself included. It's important that his story continues for generations to come."

HOLIDAY EVENT AP

First lady Michelle Obama, right, answers a question from a child, with television and radio host Ryan Seacrest, during a holiday event at Children's National Health System on Monday, Dec. 12, 2016 in Washington. Obama toured the facility, visited with patients and families, read "Twas the Night Before Christmas" to children and participated in a broadcast with Seacrest.

Lionel Richie, Mariah Carey joining forces for 2017 tour

NEW YORK (AP)—Get ready to party all night long with Lionel Richie and Mariah Carey.

The singers announced Monday they are joining forces for the All The Hits Tour, which kicks off in Baltimore on March 15, 2017.

Tickets for the 35-date tour, starring Richie with Carey as a special guest, go on sale Saturday.

Both Richie and Carey have a string of hits that remain popular today. Richie's catalog includes "All Night Long (All Night)," ''Hello" and "Stuck on You." In addition to Grammy wins, he's won an Oscar and Golden Globe.

Carey is only behind the Beatles for most No. 1 songs on Billboard's Hot 100 chart with 18. Her hits include "Vision of Love," ''Hero" and "We Belong Together."

The tour will wrap in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on May 27.

Alcoholic husband's cruelty extends even to family cat

DEAR ABBY: My husband drinks a lot. When he does, his personality changes to the point that I don't want to be around him. He's aware of this, but he continues to drink.

Recently I caught him sneaking alcohol, so I hid the bottle. When he realized what I had done, he retaliated by letting our cat out after dark, which we don't do because of the coyotes in our area. (We recently lost a cat to them after dark.) After he did it, "Joe" nonchalantly let me know the cat was outside. He didn't say why he did it, but I figured it out.

I know he's an alcoholic, but isn't this evil? It feels evil. Or is it the stunted, vindictive mind of an alcoholic?

LET THE CAT OUT

DEAR LET THE CAT OUT: Whether your husband's mind is stunted, I can't say. But what he did was, indeed, vindictive. It was also cruel. As your letter shows, alcoholism is a disease that affects not only the alcoholic, but also the people who are close to them.

Whether you can continue living this way is for you to decide, but before making up your mind, you would be wise to visit some Al-Anon meetings. To find one near you, visit al-anon.alateen.org or call 1-888-4-ALANON. Please don't wait.

DEAR ABBY: I've been involved with a younger man for 15 years. "Grant" and I were great friends, but always kept things casual—bars, hotels, sports events. We agreed we would discuss it if we wanted to date other people and allowed each other the freedom to do so over the years, but we would always come back together.

This year on my birthday I was shocked to find out through social media that Grant has been in a relationship with another woman the whole time I have known him. In fact, he married her and had a baby with her! He has been lying to me since the day we met.

I feel terrible not only for myself, but also for Grant's wife. I consider him a scumbag at this point. My gut reaction was to contact his wife and spill the beans. But after I cooled down, I'm not sure if it makes sense to ruin three more lives. I just feel he should be responsible for his actions and shouldn't get away with it. What would you do in this situation?

BURNT TO A CRISP

DEAR BURNT: Honestly? I'd move on.

DEAR ABBY: I work in a large medical facility that relies on nurses to attend every shift they are assigned. Last Christmas a nurse I know called in saying her father had died. The thing is, I have known her for years, and her father has been dead as long as I have known her. Would it be snitching to tell my supervisor what I know?

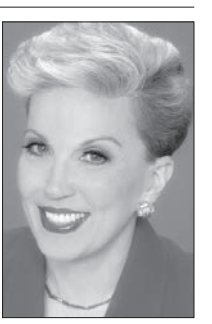
SHORTHANDED IN NEW ENGLAND

DEAR SHORTHANDED: Yes, it would. But it wouldn't be snitching to inform the nurse that lying to get out of work is not only unfair to the rest of you, but also unprofessional.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

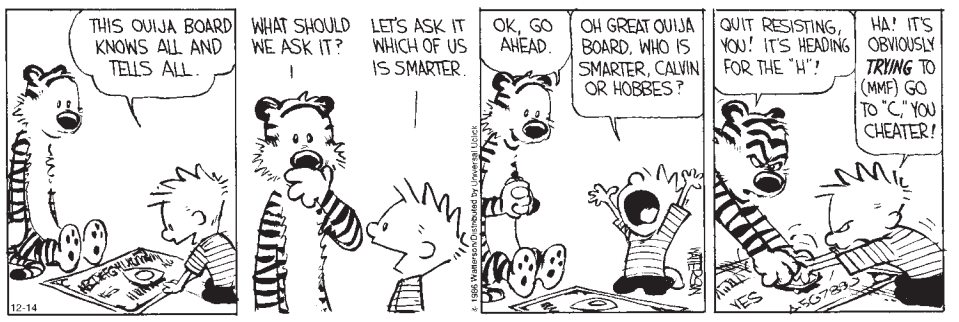


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

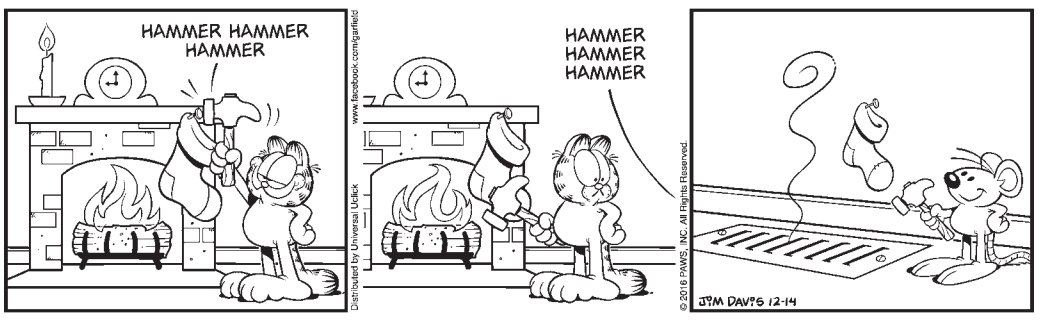
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THIS OUIJA BOARD KNOWS ALL AND TELLS ALL.
WHAT SHOULD WE ASK IT?
LET'S ASK IT WHICH OF US IS SMARTER.
OK, GO AHEAD.
OH GREAT OUIJA BOARD, WHO IS SMARTER, CALVIN OR HOBBES?
QUIT RESISTING, YOU! IT'S HEADING FOR THE "H"!
HA! IT'S OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO (MMF) GO TO "C," YOU CHEATER!
YES
12-14

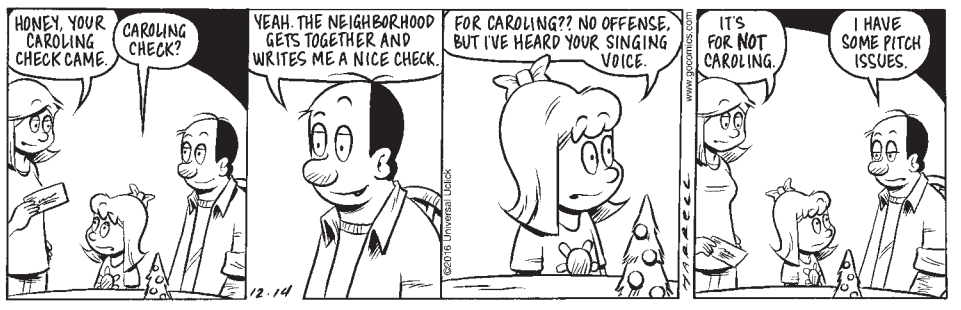
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HONEY, YOUR CAROLING CHECK CAME.
CAROLING CHECK?
YEAH. THE NEIGHBORHOOD GETS TOGETHER AND WRITES ME A NICE CHECK.
FOR CAROLING?? NO OFFENSE, BUT I'VE HEARD YOUR SINGING VOICE.
IT'S FOR NOT CAROLING.
I HAVE SOME PITCH ISSUES.
12.14

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

Hi, Becky – it's Eno. I remember you saying you couldn't go out tonight because you had to take care of your sick grandma...
I WAS JUST CALLING TO SEE HOW SHE'S FEELING.
I SAID, I WAS JUST CALLING TO SEE... NO, I SAID...
SHE MUST BE BETTER. IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE AT A DANCE CLUB.
12/14

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Actress Taylor
4 Pharmaceutical
8 Run off
12 Undivided
13 Teeny bit
14 Billie — King
15 Egypt's cont.
16 Captain's right
18 Sponge
20 "It's c-c-cold!"
21 Raw materials
24 Photoshop maker
28 Dried by solar heat
32 Overconfident
33 Away from WSW
34 Bottled spirit?
36 Gun lobby org.
37 Greek vowels
39 Lark, for one
41 Dweebs
43 Prego rival
44 Shrill bark
46 Receded
50 Visually impaired by winter glare
55 Chopper
56 Verdi opera
57 Margarine
58 Baseball's Hodges
59 Follow orders
60 Adolescent
61 Sault — Marie

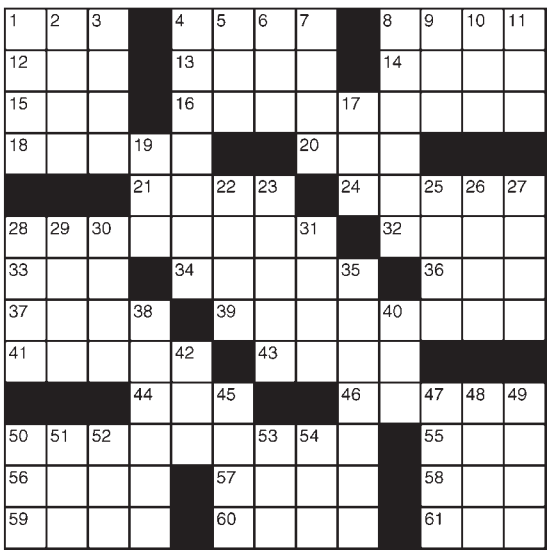
DOWN

1 Rich soil
2 Data
3 Goose egg
4 Plate cleaner
5 Hogwash
6 Actress Hagen
7 Attire
8 Norwegian inlets
9 Meadow
10 Listener
11 Conclude
17 Bikini half
19 Corn core
22 Stretches (out)
23 Man of La Mancha
25 Hotel chain
26 Duelist Aaron
27 "Zounds!"
28 Feeder filler
29 Golden rule word
30 Close
31 Actress Merrill
35 Incited
38 Elevated road
40 Fella
42 Bro or sis
45 Conspiracy
47 Satchels
48 Way out
49 Takeout order?
50 — Paulo
51 Pen tip
52 Praise in verse
53 — -de-France
54 Born

Solution time: 25 mins.

H	O	E	S		T	A	M	P		T	S	K
U	N	D	O		O	M	A	R		Y	M	A
T	O	U	C	H	T	Y	P	E		P	U	N
			C	O	O	S		L	I	E	G	E
A	S	P	E	N			T	U	R	F		
B	U	R	R		A	A	R	D	V	A	R	K
B	R	O		P	U	R	E	E		C	E	E
A	F	T	E	R	T	A	X		C	E	D	E
			O	R	E	O			L	Y	S	O	L
P	I	T	A	S		A	J	A	R			
L	A	Y		T	Y	P	E	C	A	S	T	S
U	M	P		O	A	S	T		N	O	V	A
M	A	E		N	Y	E	T		O	P	A	L

Yesterday's answer 12-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Vanessa Hudgens, 28; Sophie Monk, 37; Dee Wallace, 68.

Happy Birthday: Saying "yes" when you want to say "no" will not get you where you want to go. Don't let your emotions cloud the results you are aiming to achieve. Being evasive will confuse others as well as hold you back. Make your point clear, move on quickly and work on making the changes that will improve your life and your future. Your numbers are 4, 12, 19, 22, 26, 39, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Your changing attitudes will confuse those around you. Try not to jump from one thing to another too quickly. Inconsistency will hold you back. Learn as you go and use your past experience to keep you within bounds. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll gain insight into what's possible and what isn't by hanging out with the people in charge. Your observations will enable you to separate the good from the bad and recognize what's in your best interest. Knowledge is power. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Past emotional differences with someone will rise to the surface. Don't give in to pressure to spend money on something that you feel is a waste. Partnerships will only survive if clear boundaries and expectations are set. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Emotions will surface, making it important to channel your energy into creative pursuits and honing your skills. Discussions with personal or professional partners will need to be handled tactfully without evading issues or masking the truth. Stand by your word. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't become overly enthusiastic and take on too much. Moderation and living within your means will not deter you from reaching your goals, but they will help ensure that you build your dream on solid ground. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Your ideas will be well received, and help will be offered. Express your plans at functions that include people you have worked with in the past or would like to collaborate with in the future. New beginnings look promising. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Sharpen up your skills and gather information that will help you deal with anyone who opposes your ideas. Knowing what will work as well as being able to show what you have to offer will bring high returns. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Emotional spending should be limited. Your desire to make changes that will add to your comfort should be countered with a plan to stay within a set budget. Cutting corners and sticking to your budget will help you avoid financial stress. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Express your plans to others openly and find out where you stand. Offer incentives, but don't deviate from what you want to do. Change is imminent and will bring you the rewards you want. Celebrate with the people you appreciate most. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Listen to complaints, suggestions and your inner voice when dealing with others. It's important not to make sacrifices that will hurt you in the future. Fair is fair, and that is what you should aim to achieve. Don't be afraid to be different. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Use your imagination when dealing with children. Keep your personal finances a secret. Sharing too much information will leave you in a vulnerable position. Work hard, play hard and do your best to come out on top. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Express your feelings and discuss the changes you would like to see happen in your neighborhood. Clearing a space that you can designate for an activity or project will lead to new opportunities. Don't procrastinate. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are innovative, determined and outgoing. You are flexible and energetic.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5	8			3	7	4	6
7			4		8			1
3			6					5
5			9					4
	1	9	5				7	
			3				9	
			2			8		
			7			3		
	2	6				4		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	5	8	3	6	1	9	4	7
3	1	7	9	4	8	5	6	2
4	9	6	7	5	2	3	8	1
7	6	9	1	8	3	4	2	5
1	3	2	5	9	4	8	7	6
5	8	4	6	2	7	1	3	9
9	2	5	8	3	6	7	1	4
8	4	1	2	7	9	6	5	3
6	7	3	4	1	5	2	9	8

Difficulty Level ★★ 12/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ARTIFICIAL COLORING **Solution: 8 letters**

P	A	S	T	E	V	I	T	A	V	I	R	E	(D) H
P	E	P	E	T	A	N	O	F	L	U	S	I	(Y) E
E	N	I	M	A	S	O	R	T	I	N	A	D	(E) T
T	I	G	R	E	E	N	U	D	E	Z	R	A	(S) E
R	L	M	E	A	T	R	E	T	O	O	C	D	K R
O	I	E	D	L	Q	N	N	N	C	O	W	S	N O
L	N	N	S	U	T	I	I	A	A	A	G	N	I C
E	A	T	O	I	N	U	R	L	S	N	R	O	R Y
U	D	I	F	D	M	B	T	H	I	O	A	R	D C
M	S	Y	I	A	O	A	A	S	V	T	P	T	I L
E	I	G	O	N	R	D	A	A	S	I	E	C	T I
U	O	X	S	G	E	C	L	A	C	I	M	E	H C
L	A	K	E	S	U	F	F	K	W	O	L	L	E Y
B	D	E	S	S	E	R	T	S	U	N	S	E	T I
V	S	Y	N	T	H	E	T	I	C	A	N	D	Y E

© 2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 12/14

Aniline, Blue, Candy, Casings, Chemical, Coal Tar, Craft, Derivative, Desserts, Diazonium, Drinks, Dyes, Electrons, Fast, Flavor, Gel, Grape, Green, Heterocyclic, Hydrocarbons, Identify, Indigo, Intense, Lakes, Meat, Mixes, Nitrosamine, Paste, Petroleum, Pick, Pigment, Reds, Shades, Sulfonate, Sunset, Synthetic, Turquoise, Wash, Yellow, Yogurt

Yesterday's Answer: Santa Cruz

Purchase the **NEW Treasury 26** in time for the holidays! Order online at WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 130 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1 Carpenter , 1 Welder, minimum wage. Please mail resume to Blue Lagoon Realty Inc. P.O. Box 505478, Saipan MP 96950 or call (670)288-6903/04 look for Robert.

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Associates degree in Business Administration or any related course. Minimum of 3 years solid experience in advertising and sales is required. Must have the ability to compose clear business correspondence and prepare and meet monthly sales targets. A background in a printing or newspaper business is an advantage. Proficient in MS Word, Excel and Power Point and must work flexible hours.

Graphic Designer (1)
Associate's degree in Graphic Design or other related field. Minimum of 3 years work experience doing computer graphics and newspaper layout. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Must be familiar with offset printing process, computer peripherals, and Mac operating system. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, weekends, and holidays, depending on demand.

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The Accounting Supervisor is responsible to assist the CFO in all areas of financial operations. Must have a Bachelor's degree in Accounting or equivalent. Must also have 5+ yrs supervisory experience.

Please send resume to jwssaipan@pticom.com or fax to (670) 235-5573.

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QUALIFICATIONS

- Above average writing skills and can work within deadlines;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email your résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. ON-ISLAND HIRES PREFERRED.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.
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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Classified Ads

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REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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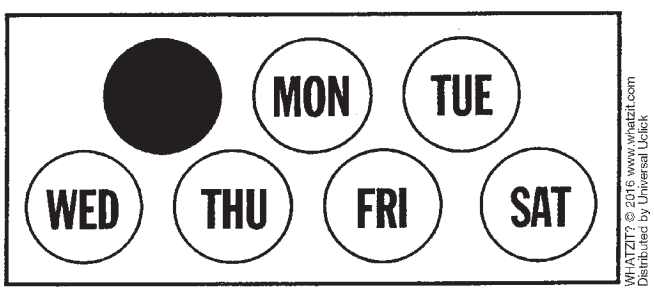
All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in classified section

Patriots get big win, continue to inch toward playoffs

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—By the time the Patriots took the field Monday night against the Ravens, they knew they'd have to wait at least another week to wrap up their eighth consecutive playoff berth.

It didn't stop New England from producing a postseason-quality effort.

The Patriots overcame a pair of miscues on special teams and provided some timely offense late to beat the Baltimore Ravens 30-23 on Monday night .

New England enters its final three regular season games in great position for an eighth straight AFC East crown.

"We just gotta keep it rolling," Patriots safety Devin McCourty said. "That's whether you want to call it a playoff game, must-win, or any of that stuff. Once you get into December and toward the end of December, every game is important. There's really no rebounding and trying to fix things. You want to try and play your best ball every time you go out there and play."

Of course, that kind of consistency is common practice for New England's 39-year-old quarterback.

Tom Brady carved up the NFL's top-ranked defense for 406 yards passing and three touchdowns, saving his best for last with a 79-yard strike to Chris Hogan in the fourth quarter.

He became just fourth NFL quarterback with at least 450 career touchdown passes.

"We weren't clicking early, but that happens in football," Brady said. "I'm glad we found a way to make some plays. A lot of guys contributed. ... It was a big win for us."

For the Ravens, it will be a short turnaround as they try to salvage their playoff hopes over the final three weeks. It begins with their final regular season home game against the Eagles on Sunday, followed by road tests at Pittsburgh and Cincinnati.

AP

New England Patriots wide receiver Chris Hogan (15) celebrates his touchdown catch with offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels, right, during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game against the Baltimore Ravens, Monday, Dec. 12, 2016, in Foxborough, Mass.

Baltimore is currently one game behind the Steelers in the AFC North.

"It doesn't really matter what our record is," quarterback Joe Flacco said. "We've just got to win our games."

FOCUSED ON PHILLY

Coach John Harbaugh said coming up short against the Patriots won't deter the Ravens from doing all they can to stay in the division hunt. That begins, he said, with putting all their focus into the matchup with Philadelphia.

"We know where we stand and the situation we are in. And that we basically have to win three games, you know, and (we are) certainly fully capable of doing that. That's what we intend to do, but all the focus goes to the next game," Harbaugh said.

BLOUNT FORCE

Patriots running back LeGarrette Blount picked up a pair of milestones in the game, topping 1,000 yards for the season and collecting his 14th touchdown. A 1-yard TD run in the first quarter gave the Patriots a 9-0 lead and tied the franchise record set by Curtis Martin in 1995 (and matched by Martin in '96).

Blount ended the game with 1,029 yards this season, topping the 1,007 from his rookie season with Tampa Bay in 2010. He's the first 1,000-yard rusher for the team since Stevan Ridley had 1,263 in 2012.

SAYONARA, CYRUS

Cyrus Jones continues to have problems returning kicks.

After dancing away from the football in the first half to avoid a fumble, he touched a bouncing punt with his foot in the second and allowed the Ravens to recover at the New England 3. Two plays later, the Ravens scored to make it 23-10.

It was the fifth fumble of the season for Jones, who sat out four times in six weeks as a healthy scratch because of his earlier struggles to hold onto the ball.

"We turned the ball over three times tonight. Three situations that I would say were pretty preventable," Belichick said. "We'll work on it with everybody. It's everybody's job to protect the ball who handles it."

SCORING DEFENSE

New England's defense was the first unit to get on the scoreboard Monday night. Patriots punter Ryan Allen pinned the Ravens at their own 1, and on the next play, Kenneth Dixon was swarmed in the end zone and brought down by Malcolm Butler for a safety.

It was the Patriots' third safety of the season—a franchise record. They also had one on Oct. 9 against Cleveland when Browns quarterback Cody Kessler fumbled the ball out of the end zone, and the following week when Dont'a Hightower sacked Andy Dalton in the end zone.

Rams fire coach Jeff Fisher after 42-14 loss to Falcons

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jeff Fisher's tenure in Los Angeles didn't last one full season.

The Rams fired Fisher on Monday and elevated special teams coordinator John Fassel to interim coach. The Rams are 4-9 heading into Thursday night's game at NFC West-leading Seattle.

Fisher had been the team's coach since 2012, and compiled a 31-45-1 record with the Rams. He oversaw the move from St. Louis to Los Angeles this past offseason.

The lack of success on the field, capped by a 42-14 home rout by Atlanta on Sunday, spelled the end for Fisher, who is tied with Dan Reeves for most regular-season losses in NFL history with 165. Fisher has the lowest winning percentage (.512) among coaches with 130-plus losses.

Los Angeles has scored a league-low 194 points this season.

"Making a decision such as this, especially during the season, is one of the most difficult in sports," Rams owner Stan Kroenke said.

"I have great respect for Jeff as a coach, person, father and friend. He has worked tirelessly despite some challenging circumstances. He played an integral role in helping this team make history in returning the NFL to Los Angeles, and we always will be grateful for his commitment and dedication to our organization."

Fisher, 58, went 147-126 as coach of the Houston Oilers/Tennessee Titans and helped that franchise in its relocation. He led the Titans to the 1999 AFC championship.

Long respected in league circles for his work on the NFL's competition committee, Fisher never found success - or a franchise quarterback - with the Rams, who went 7-8-1, 7-9, 6-10 and 7-9 in his four full seasons.

They traded up for the first selection in this year's draft and took California's Jared Goff, but he rode the bench for much of the season behind journeyman Case Keenum as Los Angeles jumped out to a 3-1 start. Fisher finally turned to Goff in Week 11 and the Rams have dropped all four of his starts.

"Some of the performances the past few weeks have been a little bit more lopsided," said Kevin Demoff, the Rams' executive vice president.

"I think that's what really tipped it. This is solely a performance-related issue. For the fans, for the players, for the coaches, for the organization we wanted to make sure games like (Sunday) didn't happen again."

Kroenke said in his statement that "this is the right time to make a change as our performance has not lived up to my or our fans' expectations. We all are focused on improving as an organization and building a team that makes Los Angeles proud. Our mission is to celebrate a Super Bowl title with our fans in Los Angeles. Today is the first step to bringing us closer to that goal."

Oddly, Kroenke gave Fisher a contract extension before the season, though it was not made public until recently.

Now, that extension looks more like a bonus to Fisher for his role in aiding the organization's move to California than being any part of a plan for the team's future.

Demoff would not commit on general manager Les Snead keeping his position, either.

"Starting today we are going to have a complete review of the entire organization. We sat down with Les, and again this team is not where it needs to be," he said.

Fisher spoke to the team Monday before the firing was announced, and players reacted to his dismissal with a mix of guilt, frustration and anger.

"We didn't do enough for him," Goff said. "Unfortunately, it falls on him, but us in the locker room blame ourselves and need to be better."

The Rams barely had time to process the news before beginning preparations to play the Seahawks on a short week under Fassel.

Fassel, 42, joined the Rams after spending the past three years as special teams coordinator in Oakland. He also has worked for the Ravens.

He is the son of Jim Fassel, who coached the Giants to the 2000 NFC title.

Attendance has been something of an issue at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, which has a listed capacity of 93,607. Only in their home opener did they approach that number, and they drew 82,495 on Sunday.

That's still a high number, but their performance against Atlanta isn't likely to help sell more tickets for their remaining two home games.

But Demoff said the timing of Fisher's dismissal had nothing to do with appeasing the frustrated fan base.

"The best marketing is winning," Demoff said.

Dragic scores 34, Heat beat Wizards to snap slide

MIAMI (AP)—Goran Dragic sat out almost the entire third quarter after picking up his fourth foul, and that's when the Miami Heat saw control of yet another game start to slip away.

Dragic made sure that was a temporary problem.

He scored 13 of his season-high 34 points in the fourth quarter, and Miami beat the Washington Wizards 112-101 to snap a five-game losing streak.

"We want him to make a lot of plays for our team," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We have great confidence in him. I think he's really comfortable right now and we want to keep him in this place. He's driving so much of what we're doing right now offensively."

Dragic made 14 of 23 shots, helping Miami kick off a six-game homestand with a win. The Heat outscored Washington by 26 points when he was on the floor, and were outscored by 15 when he was on the bench.

"We had a meeting and said this is our chance," Dragic said. "We go on a run, we put together some good games and win a couple in a row, this is a big opportunity for us to show we can play."

Hassan Whiteside had 17 points and 16 rebounds and James Johnson scored 14 off the bench for Miami, which won for only the third time in 11 games at home.

John Wall scored 30 points and Bradley Beal added 29 for Washington, which is 0-2 against Miami this season.

"It's just a tough loss for us because we battled hard throughout the game," Wizards coach Scott Brooks said. "A couple breaks here and there we probably could have won the game."

Miami led 59-53 at the half, after making 10 consecutive shots late in the second quarter. Dragic went 4 for 4 in that stretch, plus assisted on two others.

But he picked up his third foul—a call he didn't like—with 38 seconds left in the half, then got his fourth early in the third quarter.

When he went to the bench, Miami was up nine. But a 23-7 Wizards run later in the third gave Washington a five-point edge, and it was a one-point game going into the fourth when Dragic returned.

"He got a lot of easy looks," Beal said. "We were trying to figure out what we wanted to do with him. ... I have to give credit where it is due. He was shooting the ball well and he played well tonight."

Rockets 122, Nets 118

In Houston, James Harden had 36 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds to lead the Houston Rockets to their seventh straight win, 122-118 over the Brooklyn Nets on Monday night.

Eric Gordon scored 24 points on 6-for-10 shooting on 3-pointers, and Ryan Anderson added 19.for the Rockets. Houston shot 17 for 43 on 3s, making at least 10 for an NBA-record 24th straight game.

Brook Lopez scored 26 points and Sean Kilpatrick added 17 for the Nets.

Brooklyn trailed for much of the game until Joe Harris tied it at 118 with a layup with less than 40 seconds remaining.

Gordon gave Houston a two-point lead with a free throw with 11.9 seconds left, and the Rockets came up with a key steal on the ensuing inbound pass. Gordon then made two more from the line and the Rockets held on for the win.

Clippers 121, Trail Blazers 120

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin had 26 points and 12 rebounds, Chris Paul had 21 points and 14 assists and Los Angeles held off Portland to sweep the season series.

J.J. Redick finished with 19 points, hitting all eight of his free throws — including three in the closing seconds to push Los Angeles' lead to four points.

Portland's Damian Lillard hit a 3-pointer with 1.7 seconds left for the final margin.

C.J. McCollum had 25 points and Lillard finished with 24 points and eight assists for the Trail Blazers, who lost their fourth straight.

The game got testy in the final minutes. Portland center Mason Plumlee was given a flagrant foul for elbowing Griffin in the face on layup. With 11 seconds left, Portland forward Evan Turner and Los Angeles center DeAndre Jordan were ejected after a brief skirmish under the Clippers' basket.

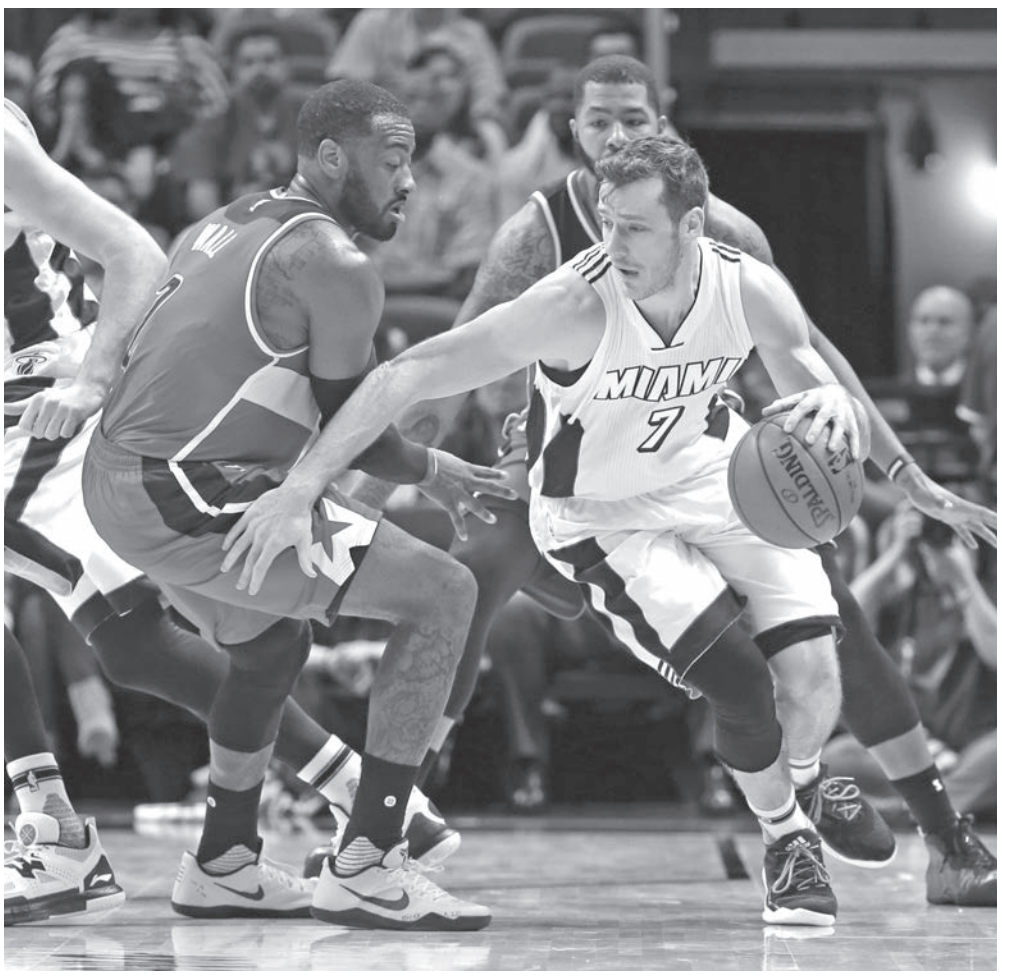
Raptors 122, Bucks 100

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan scored 30 points, Terrence Ross added 25 and Toronto beat Milwaukee for the sixth straight time.

Jonas Valanciunas had 13 rebounds and 11 points for his team-leading seventh double-double of the season as the Raptors won for the 12th time in the last 13 meetings with the Bucks.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had a team-high 30 points and Jabari Parker chipped in with 27 as Milwaukee lost its third straight.

DeRozan's free throw put the Raptors ahead for good with 2:52 left in the first quarter and they extended the lead to 26 in the second quarter.



AP

Miami Heat guard Goran Dragic (7) drives as Washington Wizards guard John Wall (2) defends in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Dec. 12, 2016, in Miami.

The Bucks pulled within eight in the final minute of the third, but that was as close as they got.

Pacers 110, Hornets 94

In Indianapolis, Paul George and Myles Turner scored 22 points each to lead Indiana past Charlotte.

Jeff Teague had 16 points, 11 assists and five rebounds, and Rodney Stuckey added 14 points for the Pacers, who have won two straight since returning home from a five-game road trip.

Marco Belinelli scored 14 points for the Hornets, Marvin Williams and Nicolas Batum each had 13 and Kemba Walker added 12.

C.J. Miles made the go ahead 3-pointer with 5.6 seconds remaining in the third quarter to start an 11-1 run by the Pacers. It gave Indiana a 76-73 lead and Stuckey's two free throws with 8:56 to play put the Pacers ahead 84-74.

Kings 116, Lakers 92

In Sacramento, Calif., DeMarcus Cousins had 31 points, 16 rebounds and five assists and Sacramento used a big third quarter to send slumping Los Angeles to a seventh straight defeat in a game featuring seven technical fouls.

After five straight points by Cousins during one sequence, Darren Collison hit consecutive 3-pointers late in the third as the Kings outscored the Lakers 39-13 in the quarter on the way to just their second victory in seven games. Collison wound up with 20 points.

First-year Lakers coach Luke Walton was ejected at the 4:14 mark of the first quarter after two technicals in succession for arguing, and he had to be held back by his players near midcourt as he became enraged after Cousins knocked over Julius Randle with no foul called.

Randle also received a T on the play and associate head coach Brian Shaw took over. D'Angelo Russell, Shaw, Cousins and Lou Williams also had technicals.

Mavericks 112, Nuggets 92

In Dallas, Wesley Matthews scored 25 points and last-place Dallas enjoyed a rare blowout, beating listless Denver.

Harrison Barnes had 18 points for the Mavericks, who led 65-43 at the break. They expanded the margin to their biggest of the season at 28 points in the third quarter and won consecutive home games for the first time in an injury-plagued season.

The NBA's worst-shooting team coming in at 41.5 percent, Dallas shot 65 percent in the first half and a season-high 58 percent for the game. The Mavericks were 12 of 26 from 3-point range after missing six of their first seven.

Optimism remains as NBA CBA talks near critical deadline

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

After months of optimism surrounding a potential new collective bargaining agreement that would allow the NBA and the players' union to avoid another work stoppage, the momentum has slowed a bit as a critical date approaches.

Both sides have until 11:59 p.m. on Thursday to opt out of the current deal. If that were to happen, they would have until the end of June to negotiate a new contract. Neither the owners nor the players believe it will get to that point, with both sides seeking a deal to ensure the league keeps enjoying skyrocketing revenue and rising television ratings.

"We're working tirelessly," union president Chris Paul said this weekend.

Many of the major parts of the deal have been addressed, including keeping the basketball-related income split the same as it is in the current agreement. There was a belief in early November that an accord could be struck by Thanksgiving, but the complex negotiations have carried on well into December.

AP

Los Angeles Clippers' Chris Paul (3) drives around Cleveland Cavaliers' Kyrie Irving (2) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016, in Cleveland.

There remain a few issues for the sides to settle before a deal can be voted on, and the owners overseeing the league's side of the negotiations planned to meet on Monday for a progress report. If the two sides do not agree to a deal by the deadline, they could implement an extension to give them extra time.

While union vice president Carmelo Anthony told ESPN that he was "skeptical" that a deal would get done by Thursday, there remained a healthy amount of optimism from both sides of the negotiating table that a deal will eventually be reached.

"We still got a few days," union vice president LeBron James told reporters in Cleveland on Saturday. "Obviously, our game right now is the best it's ever been, from where it is right here domestically to all the way around the world, so hopefully both sides come to an agreement."

AP Exclusive: MLB rookie hazing rules ban dressing as women

NEW YORK (AP)—That baseball hazing ritual of dressing up rookies as Wonder Woman, Hooters Girls and Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders is now banned.

Major League Baseball created an Anti-Hazing and Anti-Bullying Policy that covers the practice. As part of the sport's new labor deal, set to be ratified by both sides Tuesday, the players' union agreed not to contest it.

The policy, obtained by The Associated Press, prohibits "requiring, coercing or encouraging" players from "dressing up as women or wearing costumes that may be offensive to individuals based on their race, sex, nationality, age, sexual orientation, gender identify or other characteristic."

MLB Vice President Paul Mifsud said Monday the new rules resulted partly "in light of social media, which in our view sort of unfortunately publicized a lot of the dressing up of the players ... those kind of things which in our view were insensitive and potentially offensive to a number of groups."

"There's lots of pictures of baseball players dressed up as Disney princesses," he said.

Or even more outlandish, often for late-season plane trips.

Bryce Harper as a member of the U.S. Olympic women's gymnastics team, Mike Trout as Lady Gaga. Manny Machado in a ballet tutu, Carlos Correa as Wonder Woman.

All out starting next season.

"Although it hasn't happened, you could sort of see how like someone might even dress up in black face and say, 'Oh, no, we were just dressing up,'" Mifsud said. "We've also understood that a number of players have complained about it."

Exactly when the annual dress-up day began around the majors isn't quite clear. Players often considered it a form of bonding, and it's become more of a production in recent years.

Chase Headley and San Diego Padres newcomers wore the skimpy, shiny orange shorts and tight, white tops of Hooters servers for a September 2008 flight from Denver to Washington.

"Times have changed. There is certain conduct that we have to be conscious of," union general counsel Dave Prouty said.

"The important thing for us was to recognize there was a policy but to preserve the players' rights to challenge the level of discipline and the imposition of discipline," he said.

Not all outfits are banned - superheroes such as Batman and Spider-Man are OK.

Other past costumes that would be allowed include San Francisco ace Madison Bumgarner as a giant ketchup bottle, Miami slugger Giancarlo Stanton on the U.S. Olympic men's water polo team and Dodgers outfielder Yasiel Puig as Gumby.

The issue of locker room bullying erupted a few years ago when an NFL investigation found Richie Incognito and two other Miami Dolphins engaged in persistent harassment toward teammate Jonathan Martin.

MLB looked at several college anti-hazing policies while developing these new rules, and they are already being criticized by some current and former players.

"Seriously?!" former Red Sox star Kevin Youkilis wrote on Twitter. "Had to wear a Hooters outfit going through customs in Toronto and wore it proudly (because) I was in the Show."

Dodgers pitcher Ross Stripling tweeted a photo of the right-hander and teammates sporting cheerleading uniforms, saying "honored to be one of the last players ever to be dressed up as a woman."

Last September, the New York Mets posted photos and video of players going to Starbucks in Philadelphia wearing uniforms from the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, as portrayed in the 1992 movie "A League of Their Own." Several other teams engaged in similar behavior.

In 2012, Harper and Nationals newcomers wore red leotards in the style of Gabby Douglas and the U.S. women's gymnastics team for a train ride to New York—veteran Washington pitcher Gio Gonzalez tweeted a photo.

In 2007, the Yankees' theme was "The Wizard of Oz." Ian Kennedy wore Dorothy's ruby red slippers for a flight from New York to Tampa, Florida.

"I'd rather be here dressing up than anywhere else," Kennedy said at the time. "It makes you feel like one of the guys."

The new policy states "a player's actual or perceived willingness to participate in prohibited conduct does not excuse the activity from being considered a violation of the policy."

Not everyone saw these things as fun.

After he was traded to the Mets in 1992, Jeff Kent threw his pimp's costume to the floor in the visitors' clubhouse in Montreal and demanded his regular clothes—which contained the ID he needed to go through customs—be returned.

"I paid my rookie dues in Toronto," he said then. "I feel I have endured my embarrassments, my punishment. I felt I was being taken advantage of. They wanted to go overboard. I stuck up for myself. I won't be pushed around."

Some common rookie rituals are permitted.

Last year, the Cardinals and Dodgers made their newcomers walk across the street from Wrigley Field—in their full uniforms—to bring back coffee before a game against the Cubs.

And rookie relievers still might find themselves lugging snacks across the diamond to the bullpen for the veterans.

But requiring players "to consume alcoholic beverages or any other kind of drug, or requiring the ingestion of an undesirable or unwanted substance (food, drink, concoction)" is banned under the new collective bargaining agreement.

The policy is in addition to the workplace code of conduct adopted by MLB and the union in 2013 after the office of New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman asked to meet with baseball officials and inquired what rules the sport had in place against bullying with respect to sexual orientation.

"The purpose of this policy is not to prohibit all traditions regarding rookies or players," the new policy states, "but rather to prohibit conduct that may cause players physical anguish or harm, may be offensive to some players, club staff or fans, or are distracting to the operation of the club or MLB."

Christmas futsal, basketball tournaments

Two competitions will be played starting later this month at the TSL Sports Complex.

Saipan Soccer School will host the 2016 Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament from Dec. 26 to 30 for teams in the U16 and U12 age groups. Both divisions are for co-ed teams and each squad is allowed to have a maximum of 12 players.

Only the first six teams (per division) to register and complete the other requirements can play in the futsal tournament. Entry fees are $80 per squad and deadline for payment is on Dec. 23. Submission of roster is also set for Dec. 23.

The 2016 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament will kick off too on Dec. 26 and will run until the first few weeks of January.

The basketball competition will have three divisions: boys U25 and U16 and women's open. Games will be played every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday and interested teams must submit their roster on or before Dec. 19.

For more information about the TanHoldings caging, contact Irish Pagarao at 285-1138 or send an email to lalaine_pagarao@saipansoccerschool.org. For the futsal competition, call Mae Ito at 235-0568, extension 156 or send email to mae_ito@saipansoccerschool.org. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

FULL

From Page 28

IT&E Hall of Fame's 2,857 in the team scratch series prevailed against the 2,767 and 2,758 of Fiesta and SBC/J's, respectively. In the handicap series, IT&E Hall of Fame collected 3,121 to beat Full Circle (3,113) and RR & Associates (3,099).

Fiesta and RR & Associates split the two other teams awards. RR & Associates topped the team handicap game as its 1,129 pinfalls won against the 1,115 of SBC/J's and 1,099 of IT&E Hall of Fame. Fiesta, on the other hand, ruled the team scratch game with its 1,009, while SBC/J's and IT&E Hall of Fame were ranked second and third, respectively.

Mersai dominates

SBC/J's Restaurant's Kathy Mersai swept the individual awards in the men's division. She recorded 238, 575, 263, and 647 in the scratch game, scratch series, handicap game, and handicap series for the four wins. Mersai also topped the high average category after registering 171.39.

IT&E Hall of Fame's Lyn Santos and Jets' Gloria Omechelang finished second and third in the scratch game, respectively, and switched places in the scratch series. In the handicap game, Santos was ranked second anew, while Fiesta's Gigi Zapanta took the third place honors. Santos then gained her third runner-up finish in the handicap series, while D'Unknown's Ron Cal placed third.

In the men's field, IT&E Hall of Fame's Bernard Paraiso and Fiesta's Raymond Zapanta split the four categories. Paraiso won in the scratch game (254) and handicap game (269), while Zapanta claimed first place in the scratch series (683) and handicap series (716). In the individual high average, SBC/J's Restaurant made it 2 for 2 with Robert Talavera (185.76) edging Fiesta's Simon Manacop (185.19) and teammate Percy Omechelang (181.02).

Meanwhile, Fiesta also had a sweep as its members—Gigi Zapanta and Ador Dimaano—brought home the Most Improved Player awards.

3

From Page 28

Kensuke's record because he is still a super star swimmer for us," said Aleksenko, who is eying to crush the age group marks in the 100m and 200m freestyle events next year.

Tenorio completed the list of Tsunami Saipan swimmers who set new age group marks in the NMISF Meet 3 and he also smashed one of the oldest records in the Commonwealth.

The 12-year-old Tenorio shattered the more than 22 year old record of Saipan Swim Club's Joshua Taitano in the 50m backstroke. Tenorio clocked in at 33.56 seconds to eclipse the 34.44 seconds Taitano tallied on May 7, 1994.

"I'm excited to be able to break the 1994 CNMI age group record. I've been practicing everyday for this record, and would like to thank coach Hiro Kimura for guiding me. I will try to break the 100m backstroke record, too," Tenorio said.

Kimura commended his swimmers for their record-breaking performances.

"They had awesome swims. Nanaka and Isaiah did not only break CNMI age group records, but also made AAAA times. The record that Juhn broke is one of oldest CNMI records—22 years are long. Breaking CNMI records is a passing point for us and our goal this year is to make it to the final heats in the Tokyo Junior Sprint early next year and make it to the podium," the Tsunami Saipan coach said.

OLEAI

From Page 28

yet to get a response from the contractor as press time.

Tony Rogolifoi, executive director of Northern Marianas Sports Association, which oversees the management of the sports complex and coordinates the resurfacing project with the concerned agencies, in a separate interview admitted that no major repair works has been done. He added that the contractor is still waiting for some materials.

Tang's Corp. has 150 days to complete the project after the notice to proceed was released. If it misses the deadline, a $100 fine per day will be charged.

With the contractor focusing first on the facility fences, bubbles continue to form all over the rubberized lanes of the track oval. This condition forced NMSA to close the facility a few days after the notice to proceed with the project was released.

"We are again reminding the public to refrain from using the facility or entering the oval for safety purposes. We are asking for your full cooperation because we don't want people to get hurt or further delay the project," Rogolifoi said.

The resurfacing work at the track is one of the improvements that will take place at the Oleai Sports Complex. The grandstand, Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, Francisco "Tan Ko' Palacios Baseball Field, and the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Softball Field will also undergo repairs next year in preparation for the CNMI's hosting of the Pacific Mini Games in 2021.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	17	7	.708	—
New York	14	10	.583	3
Boston	13	11	.542	4
Brooklyn	6	17	.261	10½
Philadelphia	6	18	.250	11
Southeast Division				
Charlotte	14	11	.560	—
Atlanta	12	12	.500	1½
Orlando	10	15	.400	4
Washington	9	14	.391	4
Miami	8	17	.320	6
Central Division				
Cleveland	17	5	.773	—
Chicago	13	10	.565	4½
Indiana	13	12	.520	5½
Detroit	13	13	.500	6
Milwaukee	11	12	.478	6½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	19	5	.792	—
Houston	18	7	.720	1½
Memphis	17	8	.680	2½
New Orleans	8	17	.320	11½
Dallas	6	18	.250	13
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	15	9	.625	—
Utah	15	10	.600	½
Portland	12	14	.462	4
Denver	9	16	.360	6½
Minnesota	6	18	.250	9
Pacific Division				
Golden State	21	4	.840	—
L.A. Clippers	18	7	.720	3
Sacramento	9	15	.375	11½
L.A. Lakers	10	17	.370	12
Phoenix	7	17	.292	13½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

8th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic Winners

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Vickie Izuka, left, and Chiharu Sato are all smiles after receiving their first place plaques in the women's 3.0 doubles event of the 8th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic during the awards ceremony last week at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Girls U12 singles top finisher Anika Camacho proudly shows her plaque.

Women's 3.0 doubles runners-up Gillian Villagomez, left, and Guinevera Borja.

J.C. Ferrer poses with her runner-up plaque in the girls U12 singles event.

Girls U10 singles champion Helen Kim smiles after getting her plaque.

Seo Hee Lee shows her runner-up plaque in the girls U10 singles event.

Girls U16 doubles runners-up Tania Tan, left, and Coume Kaga show their plaques.

Girls U16 doubles champions Malika Miyawaki, left, and Conatsu Kaga pose for a photo after getting their awards.

Patriots get big win, continue to inch toward playoffs

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Dragic scores 34, Heat beat Wizards to snap slide

PAGE 25

3 Tsunami Saipan swimmers set new records

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmers registered five new age group records during the 2016 Northern Mariana Island Swimming Federation Meet 3 held last Dec. 3 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Nanaka Watanabe earned two new marks in the girls 9 to 10 age group, while Isaiah Aleksenko had the same feat in the boys 9 to 10 division, and Juhn Tenorio got one in the boys 11 to 12 category.

The 10-year-old Watanabe posted her first age group record in the 100m breaststroke event after clocking in at 1:30.91. She broke the mark of former Tsunami Saipan swimmer Angel Marie Tan, who submitted 1:31.27 on Feb. 20, 2010. Watanabe's second record was in the 50m breaststroke and incidentally she also crushed the old mark of Tan. The Tsunami Saipan bet's 41.63 seconds eclipsed the 41.86 made by Tan on Feb. 20, 2010.

"This meet was my last chance to get the 9 to 10 age group records. I had been trying to get them for many times, but I always missed just by milliseconds. Now I am so happy and thankful to my coach, parents, and my team mates who supported me to get these records," Watanabe said.

Aleksenko also entered the records books in the same age group after his impressive swims in the 400m and 800m freestyle events. His 5:08.50 in the 400m freestyle swim surpassed the 5:08.51 set by fellow Tsunami Saipan swimmer Kaito Yanai on May 20, 2010. In the 800m freestyle event, the 10-year-old swimmer shattered an even older mark, as his 10:34.52 was better than the 11:18.39 Kensuke Kimura logged on March 2, 2007.

"I'm so happy to break

See 3 on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tsunami Saipan's Nanaka Watanabe goes for the second and final lap of the 100m breaststroke event during the 2016 Northern Mariana Island Swimming Federation Meet 3 held last Dec. 3 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Full Circle rules Budweiser Saturday Night League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Full Circle received the championship trophy in the 55th Philippine Bowling Association-Budweiser Saturday Night League late last month at the Saipan Bowling Center after besting eight other teams in the 18-week tournament.

Full Circle, which was made up of Atoy Banting, Lito Teodoro, Cora Muna, Wrene May Alegre, Randy Abreu, Boy Sabate, Tass Nape, and Ed Caranso, finished the season with a 52.5-19.5 win-loss record to beat IT&E Hall of Fame and D'Unknown. IT&E Hall of Fame and D'Unknown had similar 46.1-25.5 marks, but the former won the tiebreak and took the runner-up honors.

Other teams that joined the 55th season of PBA Saturday Night League were RR & Associates (45.5-26.5), SBC/J's Restaurant (43-39), Team Mobil (42-30), Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan (35-37), Jets (22-50), and Bud Rollers/MARPAC, Inc. (9-63).

After losing in the battle for the championship, IT&E Hall of Fame redeemed itself in the team scratch series and handicap series categories.

See FULL on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members and supporters of Full Circle pose with their trophies and medals during the awards ceremony for the 55th Philippine Bowling Association-Budweiser Saturday Night League late last month at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Oleai track resurfacing work moving slowly

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The resurfacing project at the Oleai Sports Complex's track and field facility has started last week, but is moving slowly.

Since the notice to proceed with the project was released last Nov. 15, contractor Tang's Corp. only managed to cover some portions of the fences with tarp. Last weekend, only the fence at the main entrance of the track facility was covered, while yesterday, two employees of the contractor were seen bringing down the fence located near a hardware store.

Saipan Tribune talked to one of the employees, who said they will first secure the fences around the facility by covering them with tarp. He added that he was told major repairs may start next week. *Saipan Tribune* has been calling Tang's Corp.'s office the past two days, but has

See OLEAI on Page 26

PROJECT: OLEAI SPORTS COMPLEX TRACK AND FIELD RENOVATION
"This project is funded in whole or part with funds provided by the U.S. DEPT. OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)"
NMHC CONTRACTING OFFICER: JESSIE S. PALACIOS
MVA CONTRACTING OFFICER: MARIAN ALDAN-PIERCE
CONTRACTING AGENCY: NMHC & MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
CONTRACTOR: TANG'S CORPORATION
DESIGNER: HENRY K. PANGELINAN ASSOCIATES INC.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A sign about the resurfacing project at the track and field facility is on display at the main gate of the Northern Marianas Sports Association-operated Oleai Sports Complex.